



OPINION A10

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD: "Why this commotion and weeping?" Jesus asks each one of us today to trust Him rather than go on being troubled and miserable. Look into your heart. What is it that bothers and burdens you? Surrender them all to the Lord.

A visit to Camp Crame is a walk in the park

By Luigi A. del Puerto

YOU CAN'T MISS IT. IT'S THERE FOR EVERYONE to enjoy.

Camp Crame has pocket gardens, benches under the trees and, in the finishing stages, a fountain. You can take a tour of the camp walking on a sidewalk paved with brick-red cement tiles.

For several months now, the Philippine National A VISIT/A8

WORLD A21

JOB Market

Day after Bin Laden warning to US of continuing jihad, Baghdad market car bombing kills 60, hurts 76

100 firms taking part as PDI hosts season's biggest job fair. Companies will conduct on-the-spot screening and hiring

Too many tongues leave GMA tongue-tied

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID (VIA PLDT)—After impressing her hosts with her flawless Spanish, President Macapagal-Arroyo faced the Filipino community here and talked to them in their dialects.

TOD MANY/A8



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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'Why single out Borra'

OSCAR LARIOS

SC clears Digitel executive
Johnson Go of sexual harassment charges
NEWS / A3

World Cup:
Hot Germany ousts Argentina in penalty shootout; Italy routs Ukraine
SPORTS / A28

TALE OF THE TAPE	
Age	29
Reach	67"
Weight	129 lbs
Height	5'8
Wins	(36 KOs) 56
Losses	4
Draws	1

MANNY PACQUIAO

Age	27
Reach	67"
Weight	129.5 lbs
Height	5'6 1/2
Wins	41 (33 KOs)
Losses	3
Draws	2

All Comelec execs must be charged —Pimentel

By TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

WHY NOT ALL TOP OFFICIALS of the Commission on Elections? Why single out one man?

Questions were raised yesterday as to why the Office of the Ombudsman was not going after all the officials of the Comelec, including Chair Benjamin Abalos, involved in the scandal-plagued Mega Pacific poll automation deal.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. acknowledged that the Ombudsman's recommendation to impeach Commissioner Resurreccion Borra was a good first step toward cracking "the tough nut of this complicated case."

"It's better than nothing," he said in an interview. But he stressed that the investigation should not stop at Borra's level but cover all the Comelec officials who had approved the award of the P1.3-billion contract to Mega Pacific.

"It's not fair that only Borra should be singled out. The contract was approved by the entire Comelec. If there is something wrong with the contract—and there is—then all the members of the Comelec should be held liable for it," Pimentel said.

He added: "All those who participated in the contract should be charged, including Abalos. They should focus on the contract, not only on Borra's acts."

"Otherwise, it would appear he's being made a sacrificial lamb."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said he and his colleagues were ready to impeach Borra but that he saw no reason why Abalos et al. should be left out.

Escudero said the minority had asked the Ombudsman for copies of the resolution on the case.

"That is the reason we asked for documents. To find the reason for singling [Borra] out," he said. "As far as I know, all decisions related to this [case] were collegial, and there is no reason why the

WHY SINGLE/A9

WEIGH-IN at the Discovery Suites for what is being billed as Mano-A-Mano Filipinas Contra Mexico fight, but famed ring announcer Michael Buffer calls it Thrilla in Manila II and dedicates the Pacquiao-Larios match to the Hall of Fame heavyweights who took the country by storm 31 years ago.

Pacquiao: This is gift for Filipinos

By Francis Ochoa

THIS IS HIS CHOSEN STAGE. THIS IS his preferred audience—his adoring public. And almost everybody expects Manny Pacquiao to put on a show his people will talk about for a long, long while.

"He's going to perform for his people," said trainer Freddie Roach.

Pacquiao, the Filipino ring icon elevated to national hero status hereabouts, takes on Mexican challenger Oscar "Chololo" Larios at around noontime today in a super featherweight bout that holds more significance than just the "Pacman's" defense of an obscure title.

This is the bout the 27-year-old superstar from General Santos has fought hard to stage: A fight against an opponent

with legitimate credentials at the historic Araneta Coliseum, a gift to a country that has seen in him a refreshing diversion from its current political and economic turmoil.

"This is for all my countrymen who always supported and prayed for me," said Pacquiao in Thursday's press conference, the last time the ring sensation spoke to the media.

Pacquiao will earn \$1 million for the fight.

The Pacquiao-Larios tiff, scheduled for 12 rounds, is the centerpiece of a 10-bout card dubbed Mano-A-Mano Filipinas Contra Mexico. The bell for the opening bout rings at 8 a.m.

Roach told sportswriters Thursday that there was "no future [for Pacquiao]

PACQUIAO/A6

How to win against a 'dangerous' fighter

By Francis Ochoa

THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN TATTOOED on many a Manny Pacquiao foe's psyche.

Stay on your feet. Prolong the fight.

"Pacquiao is a dangerous fighter for the first four or five rounds," said Rafael Mendoza, the manager of Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Larios, who the Filipino boxing superstar meets today at the Araneta Coliseum. "After that, he slows down."

As far as Mendoza is concerned, the best chance is for Larios to "control the

HOW TO WIN/A6



They're coming, they're queer

The complete cast straight out of Queer Eye for the Straight Guy

LIFESTYLE/C1



Tales of the City:

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil toughs it out as head of the Northern Police District but is all heart as mentor to other cops and dad to adopted kids of slain newsman

METRO/A18



What this mother of four did with her P198 to start a business from a family tradition she hated

SUNDAY BIZ/B4

Heirs try to keep legacy of first Filipino to die for democracy in WWI

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE TOMAS CLAUDIO MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY School was named in his honor, but its pupils have no idea who he was.

The kilometer-long main road across Morong, Rizal, bears his full name, but the town library carries only a picture and a brief biography written by his great-grandnephew and other kin.

In a province tirelessly proud of its favorite son, national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, the small family of Tomas Claudio is quietly struggling to keep his fading legacy alive.

Unlike the traditional heroes that grade school pupils look up to, the man died in defense of another country.

Claudio was killed at age 26 in northern France on June 29, 1918—a private in the US Army defending France against German troops.

He was "the first Filipino to die for the sake of democracy in World War I," according to Arnel Claudio, his great-grandnephew and biographer.

HEIRS/A6



PRIDE IN BEING FILIPINO
President Arroyo views the beautiful mural depicting the customs and traditions of the Filipinos during her visit to the Filipino exhibit on Friday at the Centro Cultural de Conde Duque in Madrid. The President is expected to arrive today. (See story on Page A2.)

MALACANANG PHOTO



E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/chy/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol regions, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers mostly in the afternoon.

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG FOR RESEARCH/5/2/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Rosario	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laosay	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	San. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legaspi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

RP, Spain sign pact to fight terror, crime

THE PHILIPPINES AND SPAIN SIGNED AN agreement Saturday aimed at boosting defense ties between the two countries and at increasing cooperation in the fight against terrorism and international crime.

The memorandum of intent was signed when President Macapagal-Arroyo met with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and other Spanish leaders, a Malacañang statement said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the two countries had to improve their defense ties that are presently limited to logistics cooperation and the exchange of information.

He called for greater dialogue and for the setting up of a joint team to study cooperation in other areas such as education, counter-terrorism, fighting transnational crime and maritime security.

"We need to have a strong ally here in the European Union. For them, they need to have an ally in Asean (the Association of South-

east Asian Nations) and we are their most logical ally," Cruz said.

The Philippines, a former Spanish colony with a largely Roman Catholic populace, is a mainstay of Asean, which includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ms Arroyo said her three-day official visit to Spain had placed the Philippines in Spain's sphere of investments in Asia, noting that at present, the former colonizer was mostly investing in Japan, South Korea and China.

"Since the Philippines is near these three countries, we can make the country the hub of Spain's investment ventures because these countries are our neighbors," the President said

shortly before leaving for Manila at 11:30 yesterday, ending her one-week trip to Italy, the Vatican and Spain.

She noted that there was not much commercial and trade relations between the two countries. "But this time, Spanish businessmen have expressed interest in investing in the Philippines," she said.

Spanish businessmen have committed to invest at least \$734 million in the Philippines. To facilitate the investments, Ms Arroyo said she would put up a trade office and assign a "commercial attaché in Spain and strengthen the one-stop shop agency for investments in the Philippines, which is known as the National Economic Business Advisory."

"Sometimes they don't know whom to talk to. They don't know the rules... there is no commercial attaché," she said.

The President said she also asked the Spanish government to invest in tourism, energy and infrastructure.

Ms Arroyo also announced that Spain had agreed to open its

doors to skilled Filipino workers.

Outgoing Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas signed an agreement that would allow skilled workers to enter Spain.

She said one million jobs are awaiting Filipino health care workers there.

This month, 40 of the initial 100,000 health workers have started working in nursing homes. Although there are now 40,000 Filipinos in Spain, most of them work as domestic help.

To prepare for these job opportunities, Ms Arroyo plans to revive the teaching of Spanish in the Philippines.

"She is seriously considering bringing back the teaching of Spanish in certain school levels that are training professionals for possible work abroad," First Gentleman Mike Arroyo told the INQUIRER.

Sto. Tomas said the previously restrictive immigration laws and inability to speak Spanish had prevented Filipino workers from exploring this work-rich country.

AFP Armand N. Nocum



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Two "victims" of a "toxic chemical accident" are dragged to safety by rescuers from the National Disaster Coordinating Council wearing special suits donated by the United States. The drill was held at Camp Aguinaldo and was witnessed by a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team which pronounced it "a step forward" in preventing casualties during man-made or natural disasters in the country.

JOAN BONDOC

Mike to stay behind for pilgrimage

By Armand N. Nocum

MADRID (VIA PLDT)—FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo will go on a religious pilgrimage to pay homage to his saintly ancestors and will not be with the President when she returns to the country early this morning from an official visit to the Vatican, Italy and Spain.

"My husband will remain in Spain and he will go to the place of Sta. Teresa of Avila because that is where his family came from," President Macapagal-Arroyo said before leaving Spain at noon yesterday.

The Spanish mystic is apparently only

one of three saints in the Arroyo ancestral line, originally from Avila, Spain.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo earlier said they would be "adding more saints to the family" with the possible beatification of two saintly nuns—Maria Teresa Arroyo y Lacson and Rosario Arroyo y Pidal.

Mother Rosario, who founded the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, is described as having been born in Molo, Iloilo City, in 1916 to "wealthy and pious parents, Don Ignacio Arroyo and Doña Maria Pidal," the grandparents of the Arroyo brothers.

Maria Teresa, who was born in

1884 and died in 1957, was described by the congressman as the "sister of my father Ignacio Arroyo she's a lot closer (to our family)."

The President told reporters she and her family were able to have some private time on this trip. She said they went shopping on June 27, Mike Arroyo's birthday.

According to Juris Soliman, Mike Arroyo's chief of staff, the First Couple went around holding hands when they went shopping.

"There were no politicians, no meetings and no cellular phones. They were just there for family bonding and for spiritual uplift," she said.

RP, Spain ink judicial agreement

CHIEF JUSTICE

Artemio V. Pangalanan on Friday signed a cooperation agreement with the President of Spain's Supreme Court Francisco Jose Hernandez Santiago in Madrid.

The agreement, which the Chief Justice concluded on behalf of the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Judicial and Bar Council, covers mutual cooperation and assistance concerning reforms in judicial education and appointments to the judiciary by both countries.

Hernando is likewise the president of Spain's General Council of the Judiciary which is the equivalent of the Philippines' JBC.

The Philippines and Spain, both civil law countries, share jurisprudential antecedents based on the Civil Code, the Penal Code and a number of mercantile laws. It is expected that with the signing of the agreement, mutually beneficial judicial ties between the two countries would be further enhanced, including reciprocal visits by justices and judges.

Prize Boracay lots now up for grabs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—PRIZE LOTS ON Boracay Island will be sold through public bidding or direct selling following the issuance of a presidential proclamation reclassifying most of the world-renowned island-resort as alienable and disposable.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said commercial lots would be sold through public bidding while residential properties would be sold directly to buyers based on Republic Act No. 730, which allows the sale of public lands without public auction for residential purposes.

On May 22, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1064 declaring more than half of Boracay Island "alienable and disposable," paving the way for the titling of prize lots on the island-resort.

The 14-page proclamation categorized 628.96 hectares or 60.94 percent of the 1,032-hectare island as alienable and disposable. The remaining areas were classified as forest reserves, protected areas and swamps.

DENR regional executive director in Western Visayas Julian Amador said a committee would be formed to handle the valuation of the land based on the assessed value, zonal value and market price.

The market price of land in the beachfront area ranges from P25,000 to P30,000 per square meter.

Amador said land claimants and those who had occupied properties for years would be given first priority in the public bidding.

But the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), a group of owners, restaurants and hotels who are claimants of properties on the island have rejected the titling of their land through public bidding.

BFI chair Orlando Sacay earlier said they would not want to bid for the land they had been occupying for years and on which they had invested millions of pesos.

Sacay said they preferred that their lots be titled instead through judicial confirmation. The resort owners insisted that the government wait for the Supreme Court resolution of a lower court ruling that recognized the rights of land claimants on Boracay to have their lots titled.

The government has asked the Supreme Court to reverse lower court rulings that decided that Presidential Proclamation 1801 did not bar the claimants from having their lands titled.

Inquirer reunites ma, long-lost son

By Madonna T. Virolo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO—AN INQUIRER article that came out on Mother's Day helped reunite a mother with the son she had not seen for 30 years.

Danny Magpantay, who left as a seaman bound for Bolivia in 1975, finally called his family last June 28, using the cell phone numbers listed in the INQUIRER story. "Mom dreams of seeing son gone for 30 years."

The article, which appeared on May 14, caught the attention of the Brazilian Embassy in Manila which lost no time in contacting the Philippine Embassy in Brazil, where Danny had been last heard from.

On June 28, Danny was finally found in the South American country and he immediately called up his brothers Robert and Edwin in Manila.

The Manila-based brothers immediately went to see their mother Amparo, 71, who was living with a daughter in Pallocan West, Batangas province.

The next day, Danny was able to talk with

all the members of his family in Batangas.

"It was heartbreaking," said Leo de Leon, a cousin of Danny's who went to the INQUIRER for help with the story last April.

According to de Leon, Danny said that he was now the head of a water treatment company in Santos in the city of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

"He now speaks only English. He does not know Tagalog anymore," said Robert in Filipino.

Danny has plans to come home next month if his company would allow him, he added.

The Magpantay family had lost touch with Danny some three years after he left. Up till then Danny was writing regularly and sending financial support.

According to de Leon, the first inkling they had that Danny was still alive was about three years ago when a brother of a Calapan-based journalist, Jaylor Marasigan, told them he saw Danny at a bar in Sao Paulo with a group of seamen.

Amparo stubbornly held on to the belief that her son was still alive.

"If he's gone, he would make us feel it," she said when she was interviewed for the Mother's Day article.

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Gokongwei brod cleared

No illegal dismissal, no sexual harassment, SC rules

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT has ruled that a former executive of the Gokongwei-owned Digitel Telecommunications Phil. had not been illegally dismissed or harassed sexually, reversing an appellate court ruling that sustained her complaint and awarded her back wages and separation pay.

The SC decision, issued on June 26 and released yesterday, upheld the National Labor Relations Commission's earlier ruling that Mariquit Soriano had voluntarily resigned from Digitel in June 2000.

Soriano had brought the case to the Court of Appeals, claiming she was "constructively dismissed" from Digitel because the sexual harassment she allegedly suffered from two top Digitel executives had forced her to resign.

A constructive dismissal is a form of termination where the intention to ter-

minate is not stated explicitly but demonstrated by the words or conduct of the employer, such as reduction in pay, demotion or workplace abuse.

Soriano identified the two executives as Johnson Robert Go, the Digitel senior executive vice president, and Eric Severino, senior vice president for the business division.

Go, who died in December 2004 before the SC could resolve the case, was a younger brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei whose family owns Digitel.

Appeal rejected

The appellate court set aside the NLRC ruling and rejected an appeal from Go and Severino.

Digitel, Go and Severino questioned the CA ruling before the high tribunal.

In its decision, the high court said Soriano failed to prove that she had been sexually harassed. It said the Court of Appeals erred when it decided in her favor.

"Any employee, male or female, may

charge an employer or superior with sexual harassment, but the claim must be well substantiated... Mariquit's claim does not pass the test of credibility," the Supreme Court said.

"The findings of the NLRC, which adopted those of the labor arbiter, being in accordance with the evidence on record, it was [an] error for the appellate court to give due cause to Mariquit's petition for certiorari," the SC said.

The tribunal also ruled that Soriano would not be entitled to any monetary benefits from Digitel.

"Mariquit having failed to prove that she was constructively dismissed, a discussion of the award of back wages, separation pay and damages is rendered unnecessary," it said.

According to the SC, the statements that Soriano presented to support her sexual harassment claim were hearsay. She also failed to present any witness to corroborate her claim

that she had been harassed several times in 1999 and once in 2000.

Affidavits

Go and Severino presented affidavits of eyewitnesses, the court said.

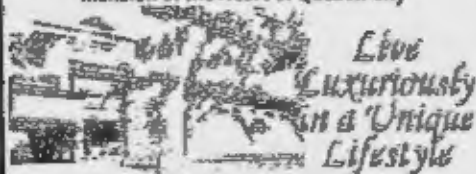
The SC noted that Soriano only raised the issue about the alleged sexual harassment in May 2001, when she filed criminal complaints against Go and Severino, 11 months after her resignation and two years after the first of five alleged instances of harassment took place.

While there was no fixed period during which sexual harassment cases should be filed, delays in filing must be "justifiable or reasonable as not to cast doubt on its merits," the SC said.

The high tribunal also said the report from a clinical psychologist stating that Soriano's behavioral problems stemmed from the trauma she experienced from the sexual harassment and which the CA gave weight to, failed to show how Soriano was sexually harassed.

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RP helping Singapore in probe of OFW's death

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN Singapore is coordinating with the city-state's police in its investigation of the death of a Filipino domestic worker who reportedly fell from a high-rise apartment last Friday.

Singaporean police took another Filipino domestic worker into custody in relation to the incident, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

The embassy has asked Singaporean authorities for permission to see the woman, Ambassador Belen Anota said in her report to the DFA.

The identities of the OFWs were withheld by the DFA as their families had yet to be informed of the incident.

The DFA said the victim fell from the 18th floor of a government housing project in Bedok South.

Her remains were identified yesterday morning in the presence of an embassy representative, her employment agency and police at the Singapore Gen-

eral Hospital mortuary.

Last May, Filipino maid Guen Aguilar was sentenced to 10 years in prison after she was found guilty of killing fellow OFW Jane La Puebla whose body she had dismembered.

In the United Arab Emirates, a Filipino woman is the object of a police manhunt for her alleged involvement in the trafficking of Filipino workers there.

The DFA withheld the name of the suspect, citing the ongoing investigation.

In another statement yesterday, the DFA said two of the suspect's latest victims were Filipino women who arrived in Dubai as tourists.

The victims, whose identities also were not revealed by the DFA, will be repatriated next week.

In his report to the DFA home office, Consul General Antonio Curameng said the OFWs were able to escape from the woman and immediately sought the help of the consulate in Dubai.

Curameng said the consulate was coordinating with UAE authorities to bust the syndicate.

Women on night shift more prone to cancer, study shows

By Jerome Aning

WOMEN WHO WORK AT NIGHT, like those employed in call centers, could be prone to breast cancer and menstrual problems, according to an Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development official.

Noting the increasing number of women working the graveyard shift—usually from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. IOHSD executive director Noel Colina said this type of working arrangement could pose health risks to women.

He cited a study by the US-based Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center which found that women who worked the graveyard shift could face up to 60 percent increased risk of breast cancer compared to those who never worked at night.

The study showed that exposure to light at night may affect the production of melatonin, a hormone which is mainly produced by the pineal glands during the night, Colina said.

"Night-time sleep deprivation or exposure to light at night somehow interrupts melatonin production, which in turn stimulates the ovaries to kick out extra

estrogen, a known hormonal promoter of breast cancer," he said.

Aside from the increased risk of breast cancer, night-time work may also interfere with the menstrual cycle.

"Painful menstruation (dysmenorrhea), absence of menstruation (amenorrhea) and heavy menstruation (menorrhagia) are conditions associated with women working the graveyard shift," Colina said.

He noted that this was the main reason pregnant women were not allowed to work at night as this could adversely affect the health of both mother and child.

"Although the study isn't conclusive, it provides us [with] pointers on how to address and protect the occupational health and safety of working women at call centers," Colina said.

The IOHSD official said call center companies should provide free and regular breast cancer screening for their employees as well as seminars on how to prevent breast cancer.

They should also sponsor regular seminars on health and safety in the workplace and set up health and safety committees, he added.

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Puno against arming civilians

INTERIOR SECRETARY Ronaldo Puno is discouraging the arming of private citizens in the light of the serial killings of

militants and journalists. Puno has ordered the Department of Interior and Local Government to look

into a proposal limiting the issuance of guns to persons in uniform. He said the DILG and the PNP through

its Private Security and Protection Office (PSPPO), may well provide citizens with security instead of allowing them to arm themselves for protection.

"A firearm only gives us a false sense of security," Puno said.

Puno cited past incidents where private individuals with permits to carry firearms abused the privilege by using their guns to threaten and intimidate other civilians, particularly during traffic altercations and other spats.

"Some of these supposedly minor incidents ended tragically," he said, because of the use of firearms.

Puno, the concurrent National Police Commission chair, said that instead of allowing private individuals, including journalists, to arm themselves, the PSPPO would take care of their security.

"(The PSPPO) has more than enough personnel specifically trained for this type of job," Puno said.

He said the PSPPO would treat each case individually and draw up a threat analysis to determine how many security personnel should be assigned to a person under threat and how many and what type of firearms should be issued to his or her guards.

Norman Bordadora

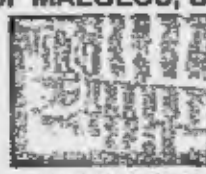
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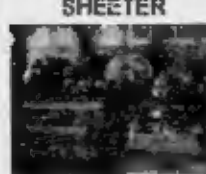
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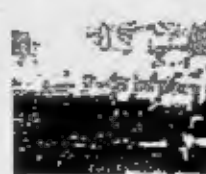
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AMRSWP BIENNIAL CONVENTION

June 26 - 29, 2006

Capuchin Retreat Center - Lipa City, Batangas CONCLUDING STATEMENT OUR HEARTS CRY OUT!

Gathered together for the Sixth Biennial Convention of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Women in the Philippines (AMRSWP), we, the Servant-Leaders of 114 women religious congregations of the Philippines, together with our Mission Partners, heard A RENEWED CALL TO PROPHETIC SPIRITUALITY amid the long drawn-out crisis in our society. As we share in the Passion of Christ for wounded humanity, we reflect on our situation and cry out with Jeremiah:

*Oh, my suffering, my suffering!
How I writhe!
Oh, the walls of my heart!
My heart moans within me,
I cannot be silent:
For ...
Disaster overtakes disaster,
For all the land has been ravaged.
(Jeremiah, 4, 19-20)*

WE ARE HORRIFIED

at the all out war proclamation of the President that will intensify militarization in many parts of the country and will surely give rise to more violations of human rights. We call for a cessation of violence and urge respect for peoples' rights

WE ARE ENRAGED

at the unabated extra judicial killings of peasants, workers, Church people, journalists, lawyers, activists, especially the 71 women among them. We call for: a stop to these killings, punishment of the perpetrators, and compensation for the victims' families.

WE ARE SADDENED

by the continuous violence perpetrated against women and children and single out at this moment the rape of Nicole in Subic. We express our support to Nicole, her family and lawyers in their uphill struggle to obtain justice for this heinous crime.

WE LAMENT

the wanton rape of our land in the 23 mining sites prioritized by the administration's Mining Revitalization Program and the untold sufferings of thousands of displaced fisherfolk, farmers and indigenous peoples driven away by these projects from their homes and places of livelihood. The next generation will surely curse us for allowing this wiping out of their heritage. We say no to this destructive large-scale mining projects under the existing policy, call for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995, and urge an enactment of an alternative policy that promotes responsible and patriotic stewardship as well as safeguards human rights.

We protest against all activities that further degrade our environment!

WE ARE INDIGNANT

at the deception and manipulation with which the Cha-Cha is being forced on us in defiance of the Constitution and misusing the concept of people's initiative - all for the perpetuation of those in power. We are alarmed by the proposals to open our national patrimony to foreign ownership, to remove the current provisions that protect the civil liberties of citizens, to delete the provision that limits the powers of the President to declare Martial Law, to allow the presence of nuclear arms and foreign military bases in the country.

WE ARE GRIEVED

We call for an election of national officials in 2007. We say no to charter change at this time. We enjoin people to be vigilant in opposing this utter disregard for legal processes and genuine people's participation.

by the mindless and ruthless demolition of the houses of urban poor communities in the name of development and decongestion. We denounce the land conversions, the ineffective land reform and other factors that cause forced migration of the rural poor to the cities.

We plead for a cessation of all demolitions and evictions of people and demand the fulfillment of their basic necessities and their active participation in decision making that affects them.

As one voice, we call on those in authority to put an end to the sufferings of our people by immediate and effective action.

To all our Sisters and Lay Partners, we urge a concrete living out of our prophetic calling:

by documenting, exposing and denouncing all forms of abuses and violations of human rights;

by relentlessly searching, pursuing and defending truth, and by conducting peace-building missions.

We announce and embody the Good News by our vigilance and perseverance in our solidarity with our people in the struggle for justice as we journey together towards the

FULLNESS OF LIFE.

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and the

DELEGATES TO THE SIXTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE AMRSWP
CAPUCHIN RETREAT CENTER, LIPA CITY
JUNE 29, 2006

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, July 2, 2006
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24

Death is not from God

God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. Since he has created everything, all creatures of the universe are for our good; there is no deadly poison in them and the netherworld has no dominion over the earth, because immortal is not submitted to death.

Indeed God created man to be immortal in the likeness of his own nature, but the envy of the devil brought death to the world, and those who take his side shall experience death.

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Christ became poor

You excel in everything: in the gifts of faith, speech and knowledge; you feel concern for every cause and, besides, you are first in my heart. Excel also in this generous service.

You know well the generosity of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Although he was rich, he made himself poor to make you rich through his poverty.

I do not mean that others should be at ease and you burdened. Strive for equality, at present give from your abundance what they are short of, and in some way they also will give from their abundance what you lack. Then you will be equal and what Scripture says shall come true: To the one who had much, nothing was in excess; to the one who had little, nothing was lacking.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43 (or 21-24, 35-43)
Jairus' daughter

Jesus then crossed to the other side of the lake and while he was still on the shore, a large crowd gathered around him. Jairus, an official of the synagogue, came up and seeing Jesus, threw himself at his feet and asked him earnestly: "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her so that she may get well and live."

Jesus went with him and many people followed, pressing from every side. Among the crowd was a woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years. She had suffered a lot at the hands of many doctors and had spent everything she had, but instead of getting better, she was worse. Since she had heard about Jesus, this woman came up behind him and touched his cloak thinking, "If I just touch his clothing, I shall get well." Her flow of blood dried up at once, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her complaint.

But Jesus was conscious that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" His disciples answered, "You see how the people are crowding around you. Why do you ask who touched you?" But he kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, aware of what had happened, came forward trembling and afraid. She knelt before him and told him the whole truth.

Then Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace and be free of this illness."

While Jesus was still speaking, some people arrived from the official's house to inform him, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Master any further?" But Jesus ignored what they said and told the official, "Do not fear, just believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James and John, the brother of James.

When they arrived at the house, Jesus saw a great commotion with people weeping and wailing loudly. Jesus entered and said to them, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep."

They laughed at him. But Jesus sent them outside and went with the child's father and mother and his companions into the room where the child lay. Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha kumi!" which means: "Little girl, get up!"

The girl got up at once and began to walk around. (She was 12 years old.) The parents were astonished, greatly astonished. Jesus strictly ordered them not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

Commentary
We hear that our God rejoices only in life, creation and justice, and that we were created in his image to be imperishable. We must remember this in the midst of evil, injustice and violence. And we must endeavor to live with charity, relieving others, in imitation of the poor man Jesus, sharing with others as a community. Jesus is the Lord of life, bringing the daughter of Jairus back from the dead, and healing the woman who had been excluded (made dead) in her community for twelve years. We are his community commanded to be a place of life, healing, medical care, nourishment for others here now.

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Pacquiao: This is a gift for my countrymen

From page A1

without a win," meaning a loss to Larios could create major kinks in the projected third meeting between Pacquiao and Mexican Erik Morales in November.

For Larios, this is more than just a shot at the WBC international super featherweight title Pacquiao currently holds, a belt normally contested by boxers ranked 11th and above in their division. This is the 29-year-old Guadalajara, Mexico, native's biggest fight in his battle-scarred career—purse-wise and opponent-wise.

Larios will be paid \$450,000 for this bout, and a victory would open doors to more lucrative fights. But if Roach's fight plans work as he is confident they will, Larios can very well go ahead and cash that paycheck as his retirement fund.

A quick end

"Manny's going to end it quickly with this guy," Roach said. "That's how to deal with [Larios]—jump on him right away because he's a slow starter. I don't want Manny to play with this guy." (See related story on Page A1.)

"So don't take your eyes off the television screen," said Roach, who will be in Pacquiao's corner for the 10th time in the Filipino's 46-fight career. "Things are going to happen pretty quickly."

Pacquiao's 41-3-2 win-loss-draw record is highlighted by 32 knockouts.

Half-pound difference

Roach said that the Larios camp knows what Pacquiao, a former two-time world champi-

on, is planning to do but "there's nothing [Larios] can do about it."

Pacquiao was all business during yesterday's weigh-in at the Discovery Suites, where he tipped the scales at 129 1/2 lbs. Larios, a former WBC super bantamweight champion, came in half a pound lighter at the weigh-in emceed by famed ring announcer Michael Buffer.

Buffer lent further significance to the fight, calling it the Thrilla In Manila II and dedicating the bout to the two Hall-of-Fame heavyweights who took the country by storm almost 31 years ago with a fight that remains a classic to this day—Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Quiet lion with sore tooth

As in his final training Saturday afternoon, Pacquiao only offered an obligatory smile for the cameras during the traditional pose of contenders.

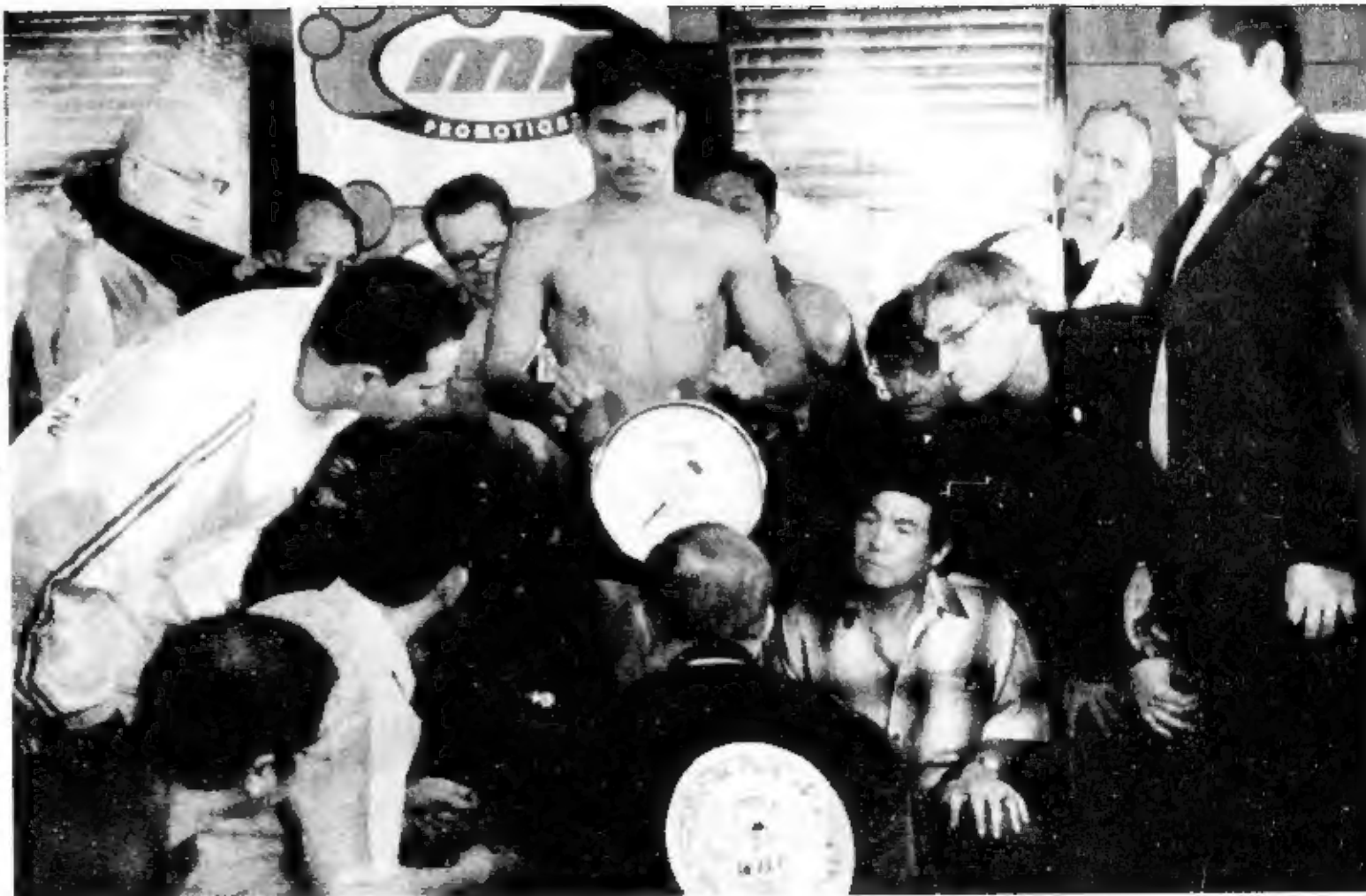
Other than that, he was serious and quiet, retreating to a heavily guarded room right after the weigh-in and exuding as much charm as a lion with a sore tooth.

"He was a little cranky," Roach said, smiling. "And that's usually a good sign before the fight."

Closeted in the privacy of a sealed-off room, Pacquiao later had a heavy lunch consisting of fried lapu-lapu, bulalo and fried chicken. His handlers hope to have him at around 140 lbs at fight time. He lightened up a bit after the meal, leafing through a freshly published book about him.

Smiling challenger

But he remained reserved, as if in deep thought.



THE ADORED RING LEADER is all business during the weigh-in on Saturday. Members of Team Pacquiao and Larios's men keep a keen eye on the scale which shows the Pacman weighing in at 129 1/2 lbs.

EDWIN BACASIAS

In contrast, Larios (56-4-1, 38 knockouts) was all smiles during the weigh-in, a picture of a boxer confident that his camp has gotten Pacquiao all figured out.

"In front of his (Pacquiao's) public, he wants very, very bad to win by a knockout," said Rafael Mendoza, Larios's manager. "The longer the fight is, the better it is

for Larios."

But Roach said Larios could easily be lured into a brawl, something that fits Pacquiao's style just fine.

'For you and me'

"He's going to try and move backwards against Manny and be out of character," Roach pointed out. "But once Manny lands that

first blow, he (Larios) is going to revert back to who he is."

Roach admitted that Pacquiao might try to showboat a little too much in front of his compatriots, but even that isn't a cause for concern.

Drawback

"That's just a drawback of fighting at home," said the American

trainer. "Sometimes you fight for the people more than for yourself."

Asked whether Pacquiao will try to be too flashy for the crowd or display the same restraint that was the game plan in his dismantling of Morales early this year, Roach replied: "He's going to do a little of both. He's going to fight for you and me."

How to win against a 'dangerous' fighter

From page A1

first six rounds" of the match.

"If we can do that, we have a good chance, a very good chance to win," he said.

'Larios won't last'

Freddie Roach, the American trainer largely credited for Pacquiao's metamorphosis into a complete boxer, could only snicker after being told of Mendoza's statement. While Pacquiao will, indeed, look for a quick way to end the bout, Roach doesn't see the Filipino losing steam as the fight progresses.

"We're ready to go the full 12 rounds," Roach said. Then, in a voice thick with an equal mix of confidence and cockiness, he added, "I just don't think Larios is going to last that long."

Roach knows what he's talking about.

Killer left

Working his 10th fight with the Filipino, Roach has seen Pacquiao's transformation from a rock-fisted, hard-punching southpaw who spends ring time waiting for the chance to land his killer left straight into a more complete fighter "who fights with two hands now."

"His defense is better, he has more head movement and he just keeps getting better and better," Roach said.

The Larios camp is basing its fight plan on images picked up from Pacquiao's failed title bid against Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez in 2004, where the Filipino floored the world champion three times in the first round but failed to finish him off, coming up with a disappointing draw.

Early rounds crucial

Mendoza believes that is the Pacquiao that will show up today at the Big Dome.

"He's going to fight the way he fought Marquez," Mendoza said. "That, I know. He's going to jump at Larios in the first round and try to end the match early. You see the percentages of Pacquiao's knockdowns, everything is in the early rounds."

But it is precisely because of that fight against Marquez that Roach was able to convince Pacquiao to overhaul his style.

Mexican destroyer

"He's a more complete fighter now," Roach said.

"I fear nobody with Manny Pacquiao," he added. "Nobody in the world. I'd put Manny Pacquiao against Mike Tyson."

And Larios is no Tyson.

In fact, many believe that Larios is far from the level of Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera, two Mexican ring icons Pacquiao stopped in the late rounds. Pacquiao halted Barrera in the 11th round in 2003. Early this year, he gave Morales his first-ever taste of defeat with a knockout in the 10th round, a victory that cemented Pacquiao's reputation as a Mexican destroyer.

Pacman tank is full

That's why Roach is confident of a Pacquiao win, whether the fight ends early or goes the distance, despite reports that Pacquiao reported to training two weeks behind schedule.

Larios, who trained earlier, is hoping he can stretch the match to take advantage of his supposed edge in stamina.

But Roach isn't worried about Pacquiao's gas tank.

"Manny's in the best shape of his life, he's going to be tough to beat," Roach declared, showing little concern for how long Larios could stay on his feet.

Heirs try to keep legacy of first Filipino ...

From page A1

Morong Mayor Joseph Buenaventura described him as among the earliest overseas Filipino workers.

Plantation worker

Sparse details of Claudio's short life may be gathered from his page-long biography, the marker on his monument in the plaza of Morong and a resolution passed by the town council in March.

He was born in Morong, where he completed part of his high school education.

In 1914, he traveled to Hawaii to work at a sugar plantation. His parents and two siblings finally realized where he was when he started sending money from Hawaii.

He found work where he could—at a pineapple plantation, as a fisherman in Alaska, at a post office, and as an elevator boy.

When World War I broke out and intensified, pitting more and more countries against one another, Claudio volunteered for the US Army.

He was admitted in November 1917, and was sent to France the following month.

Private Claudio never made it back to his native soil. (A marker at the elementary school puts the date of his death at Oct. 6, 1919. But Arnel Claudio said that the date was erroneous and that he was working to have it changed.)

Claudio's remains were transported to the Philippines in 1921 and interred at the North Cemetery in Manila, according to Demetria San Juan, vice president for administration of the University of Rizal System.

'Ready to sacrifice'

In a speech during the program marking Claudio's 88th death anniversary last Thursday, Mayor Buenaventura noted how the man was "ready to sacrifice not only for the pragmatic reason of earning a living (but also) for the noble cause of world peace and democracy."

After Claudio's death, his memory enjoyed a few years of popularity in Morong. A monument was built in his honor at the town plaza in the 1960s.

But his memory waned with the passing of the years.

The program on Thursday marked the first time Morong commemorated his death anniversary, thanks to a town resolution passed in March.

"We usually hold short programs only during his birthday (May 7)," a teacher at the Tomas Claudio Memorial Elementary School told the INQUIRER.

The program included a parade that began at the school, where pupils had gathered as early as 6:30 a.m., waving paper flags of the Philippines and France (which carry the same tricolor combination).

Asked why they were waving the flags, the second graders said their teachers had told them to do so.

Asked who Tomas Claudio was, they



REVIVING A FAST-FADING MEMORY. Reproduction of photo of Private Tomas Claudio now hangs in the municipal library in Morong, Rizal. He was honored in his native Morong Thursday on his 88th death anniversary. He was killed in France during World War I.

LYN RILLON

all smiled; one of them shook his head.

A number of the teachers admitted that they got to discuss Claudio and his life with their pupils only once or twice a year, when there were programs held in his honor.

Some of them said they would integrate his life story into their history lessons.

Sadly, however, there is no mention of Claudio in the books they are using. And apart from photocopies of his biography, his picture and that of his brother and sister placed atop bookshelves in the town library, information is scarce.

Memorial foundation

Still, the family intends to keep his memory alive.

Arnel Claudio established the Tomas Claudio Memorial Foundation in 1998, for the purpose of raising public awareness of his esteemed relative.

The efforts are paying off, judging from the presence of two officials of the French Embassy at the Thursday commemoration.

"We are here to pay homage to the sacrifice of Tomas Claudio," Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, embassy first counselor and deputy head of mission, told the small assembly at the town plaza.

"This is our way of expressing our thanks to him and to the Philippines,"

Fabre told the INQUIRER after the program. Fabre and embassy press attache Carolle Lucas were invited by the foundation and the municipal government to attend the program.

The last time French officials attended a program for Claudio was in 1999, when the then ambassador joined the wreath-laying ceremony.

Fabre said there was no reference to Claudio in France. He said that aside from 1.5 million young Frenchmen, volunteer soldiers of different races also perished in the war.

"But [Claudio] is the only Filipino we know so far who was killed trying to defend France during the First World War," Fabre said.

Still standing

The house where Claudio was born in 1892 is still standing in the middle of the crowded town.

Arnel Claudio said the ground floor had been renovated, but the walls and posts on the upper floor had never been replaced.

The house is now a symbol of both the past and the impatient future: Relatives occupying the house had put up an Internet shop on the ground floor. But there is no stopping Arnel Claudio from pursuing his mission.

Now he is thinking of turning the house where his great-granduncle was born into a museum.

ROOF SHINGLES

(Are shingles suited to Philippine weather!)

"Asphalt shingles do well in the U.S.A., but will they perform well in our climate?"

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Simply Creative

By TJ Burgonio

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defen-

Jalandoni and Madrigal said the question about the "terror listing" should be resolved by the government and the NDF.

The gross human rights violations, particularly on the extrajudicial killings and involuntary disappearances of political and legal activists have become a prejudicial question which can immediately be resolved by the GRP condemning and ordering the immediate investigation and prosecution of those li-

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TONGUE-TIED, President Arroyo gropes for the right word to say.

Too many tongues ...

From page A1

That was when she stumbled and stopped in the middle of her speech, trying to grope for the right word.

All because she had been talking in too many tongues, she said.

Meeting with the Filipino community at the Madrid Auditorium of Conde Duque on Friday, Ms Arroyo, in a peach blouse and slacks, told them in Filipino about the prospects of more jobs in Spain.

Suddenly, she stopped and turned to the Cabinet men and congressmen seated behind her to ask about a word on health-related jobs.

Quick to her rescue, outgoing Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas spat out the words "health care."

Ms Arroyo broke into a laugh, held her head with both hands and said: "Nalimutan ko na sa daming language (I forgot because of the many languages)."

Praised by hosts

Ms Arroyo had been praised by the Spaniards and fellow Filipinos here for the way she addressed the Spanish Congress, City Hall officials and businessmen in fluent Spanish on Thursday.

During her talk before the Filipino community, the President gave out awards to both Spaniards and Filipinos promoting Philippine culture and interests.

She said that at her meeting

with Spanish President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero at the Palacio de la Moncloa, she had asked that Filipinos be allowed to have their driver's licenses in the Philippines recognized here.

King and queen

Also on Friday, Ms Arroyo received a call from former President Jose Maria Aznar at the Ritz Hotel where she was billeted, viewed a Filipino exhibit at the Centro Cultural de Conde Duque, and had lunch with King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia at the Palacio Real de Madrid.

Later in the day, she was to attend the commemoration of Fil-Hispano Friendship Day at the Ritz Hotel.

Fighting terror

She was to leave Spain for Manila at 11:30 on Saturday and is to arrive in Manila Sunday morning.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said that during the Spanish visit, the Philippines and Spain signed an agreement on counter-terrorism activities and exchange of training and military knowledge between their military and police officials. (Story on Page A2)

Both countries have been victims of terror attacks. Extremists in 2004 bombed train stations in Madrid, killing nearly 200 people and wounding about 1,400.

Cruz said the agreement would also cover an exchange of information on disaster control.

A visit to Camp Crame ...

From page A1

Police has been sprucing up its headquarters in Quezon City. The plan is to build a park in front of the national headquarters (NHQ) building and improve the sidewalk around the area.

Heroes love

Work began last year, when officials broke ground at the lightly forested area in front of NHQ, the site of the PNP Heritage Park.

The old battle monument, which was in front of the multipurpose center, was moved to the Heritage Park.

In lieu of the monument, a heroes lane was constructed in front of the multipurpose center, which would have two miniature bridges and a fountain. Last week, workers finished building the bridges and paving the area.

When completed, the Heritage Park will showcase a battle monument on which the names of fallen soldiers will be inscribed. The monument will also recognize the accomplishments of the police force and milestones in its history beginning in 1901.

Cost

According to official and unofficial sources, Heritage Park would cost P16 million, while the sidewalk would cost P1.3 million.

The money came from savings and trust receipts, sources added. Trust receipts are revenues earned by the police through licenses and clearances.

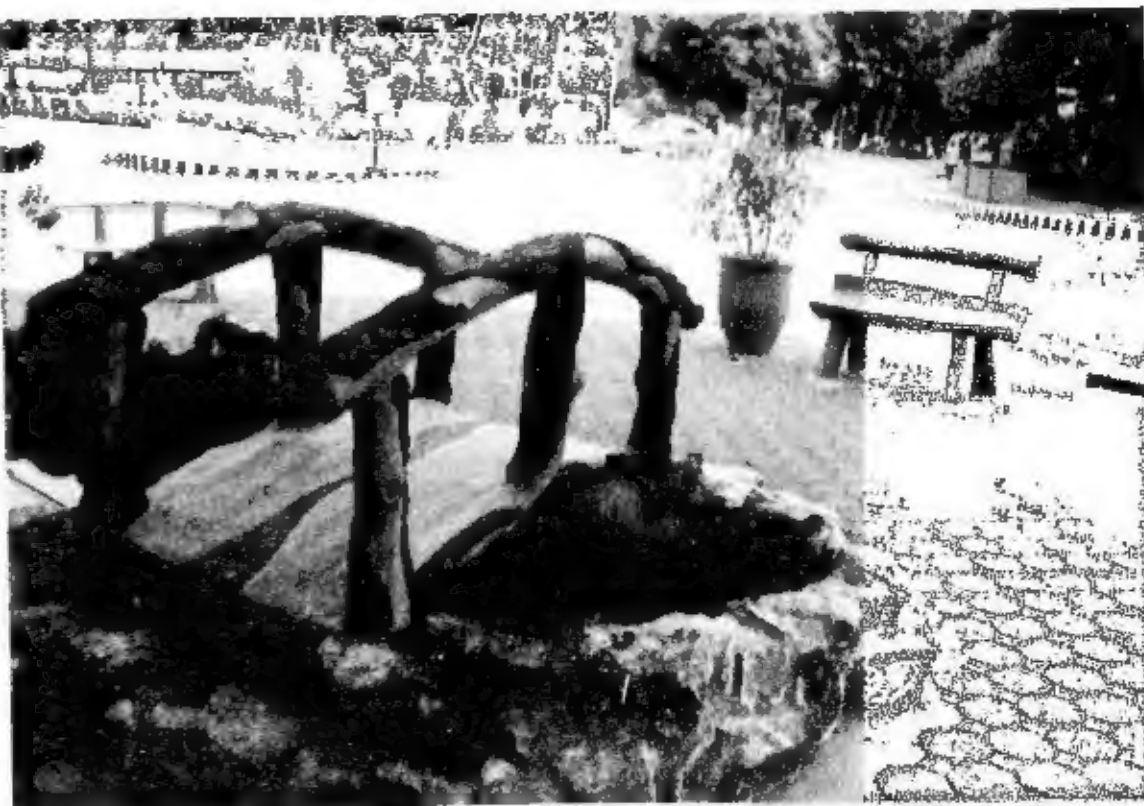
Visitors to the park interviewed by the INQUIRER said they were only too glad to walk on the new pavement and to rest on the benches under the trees.

There were other opinions about the park.

It's a camp

Some junior officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Camp Crame was not meant to be a park, where civilians could sit around and relax.

The money spent on the park could have been put to better use by



POCKET PARK across the PNP multipurpose hall is neat and serene with its sidewalk of brick-red pavers, wooden benches and a whimsical bridge, all part of the overall beautification of the police headquarters at Camp Crame.

RAPHY LERMA

strengthening the police force in the countryside, the junior officers said.

"Go to a fourth-class municipality and you will find policemen still using typewriters. *Sila talaga ang kawawa* (They are the ones who are worse off)," one officer said.

More police stations

A ranking official, who also requested anonymity, agreed that resources should go to the countryside where they were most needed.

But the PNP under retiring Director General Arturo Lomibao, was already doing this, the official said.

He noted that civilians and visitors also visited the camp. "The intention really is to make visitors comfortable."

Lomibao, who is scheduled to retire on July 5, assuming President Macapagal-Arroyo does not extend the PNP chief's term, had made it his priority to build or rehabilitate police stations in the provinces, since many of the

buildings were dilapidated or squatting on private property.

Transformation program

These physical developments are part of the PNP Transformation Program, an ambitious plan to create a highly professional police force at the end of five or six years.

During Lomibao's term, police stations mushroomed nationwide—in popular tourist spots, as well as in communist hotbeds.

To date, 54 new stations have been built, 51 are undergoing construction and 48 are completing the administrative or bidding process, according to the Public Information Office.

The cost of the projects, roughly P338 million for some 150 new stations, was shared by the police and local governments.

More in countryside

"We're doing more for the countryside than for the camp.

Very little of the resources had been [set aside] for the camp," the ranking officer said.

Another official revealed that because money was scarce, the construction work at the camp was done in phases.

The ranking officer said the new police stations would be the legacy of Lomibao's administration, whose overriding motivation has been to "bring back the dignity of the PNP."

Repair of toilets

The Headquarters Support Service, which maintains Camp Crame, said it also recommended the construction of a covered pathway and a Camp Maintenance and Services Unit office, which would cost P8 million and P12.3 million, respectively, and the repair of toilets, which would cost P4.9 million.

These long-term projects, however, have yet to be approved, the HSS said.

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'Why single out Borra,' charge all Comelec execs

From page A1

others should be treated separately."

The Ombudsman announced Friday it had adopted a resolution containing factual findings that the House could use to initiate impeachment proceedings against Borra.

It said Abalos and the other officials were still under investigation.

Pimentel also suggested that the Ombudsman file criminal charges against Borra directly with the Sandiganbayan without going through the impeachment process.

"I don't think we should go the route of impeachment. I believe that, using US jurisprudence, commissioners can be criminally charged directly by the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan," he said, arguing that the commissioners were not in the league of impeachable officials like the President and the Chief Justice.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon agreed with Pimentel's view: "Impeachment does not carry judicial punishment. The next thing to do is file criminal charges, if indeed the charges are true."

Pimentel added that if Ombudsman Mercedes Gutierrez wanted to "use a little conservative approach," she should file criminal charges with the Sandiganbayan against retired Comelec officials found liable for the deal.

The Supreme Court voided the deal two-and-a-half years ago on grounds that the Comelec disregarded the law and its bidding procedures when it awarded the contract for the automatic counting machines to Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc.

Apart from Abalos and Borra, retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain, and current Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

Turn state witnesses

Pimentel also said members of the Comelec Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), whom the Ombudsman had ordered dismissed for grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, should turn state witnesses.

"My suggestion to them is to save their own skin and turn state witnesses," he said, adding that it was unfair to let them take the brunt of the law for the deal.

The BAC was chaired by Eduardo Mejos. Its members included lawyers Jose Balbuena Jr., Lamberto Llamas, Bartolome Sinocruz and Gideon de Guzman.

The Ombudsman had said Borra was being cited for allowing the BAC to declare the Mega Pacific consortium eligible to take part in the bidding process; allowing material deviation from the bidding requirements; and recommending to the BAC that the award be given to the consortium despite its ineligibility and technical failure.

Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez said Borra would withhold comment pending receipt of a copy of the Ombudsman's report.

Borra is busy this weekend for the wedding of a son somewhere in Laguna.

Culpability

Augusto Lagman, the main complainant in the Mega Pacific deal, also wants Abalos included by the Ombudsman among those it found liable for the deal.

"Abalos and all the other commissioners who signed the deal are culpable. And Abalos has been defending and defending the legality of the contract in so many forums," said Lagman, president of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines and Systems Group head of the poll watchdog National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

Like Pimentel and Biazon, Lagman said the retired commissioners could still be charged with graft.

Lagman also questioned why the members of the BAC were only ordered dismissed by

the Ombudsman.

Lagman pointed out that the high court had given the Ombudsman "a very long time to conclude its investigation."

"Questions have to be raised by the public as to why the Ombudsman was able to come out only with a partial result," he said.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the Office of the Ombudsman was operating under pressure.

"I think the Ombudsman was pressured to put out even initial findings just to conform to the Supreme Court [deadline] of June 30," he said.

Nograles said it was too early to tell if the Mega Pacific deal was indeed a collegial decision by the Comelec.

"I have not read the findings," he said.

Nograles, who also chairs the House committee on rules, said that according to procedure, the chamber would wait for a complainant and at least one congressman who would endorse the complaint.

But Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez warned that the 2007 polls could be affected if impeachment proceedings were initiated against Borra and possibly other Comelec officials.

He warned that the public might not look kindly on a poll body whose attention would be divided between preparations for the 2007 elections and the impeachment of its top officials. With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



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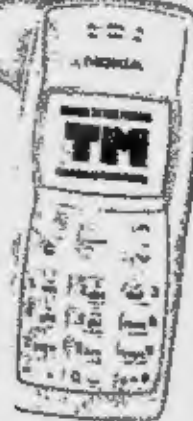
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Who's winning?

BY THE ARMED FORCES' OWN COUNT, IN THE first six months of the year, more soldiers died in encounters with the New People's Army than did communist insurgents. Between Jan. 1 and June 27, a total of 104 soldiers perished in clashes with the NPA or in ambushes by the rebel group. The best estimate of the rebel death toll in the same period, however, is 87.

In these absolute terms, the communist insurgency seems to be going the insurgents' way. Is it?

The AFP chief of staff, Gen. Generoso Senga, has a ready answer. "It does not mean that we are losing the battle," Senga told reporters on Thursday. "In fact, based on our order of battle the insurgency movement has not made any gains."

In relative terms, of course, he is indubitably right. The AFP's six-month death toll is 104 lives too many, but it is still less than a thousandth of the military's current troop levels. That of the NPA, however, is more or less about a hundredth of its current strength. In other words, the insurgency is losing men at 10 times the rate of the AFP, hardly a sustainable strategy.

In definitional terms, Senga is also right. The number of insurgency casualties can only be, necessarily, an incomplete estimate. "Let me make it clear that these are based on [actual] body count. In the battlefield, we cannot recover all the rebel casualties all the time." (And naturally, the NPA does not publish casualty figures.)

So the grim numbers tell us that the AFP is not losing the war. Does this necessarily mean, however, that the AFP is winning it?

Consider the following: The communist insurgency, at 37 years and counting, is one of the longest-running in the world. From its heyday in the early 1980s, when economic distress and political repression under the Marcos dictatorship helped swell its ranks, the insurgency, in terms of number of armed rebels, at one point shrank to about three-fourths its biggest size. But today, NPA rebels continue to wage guerrilla raids on police outposts, burn cellular phone relay stations, attack military formations at will. Controversially, they continue to use land mines, which they claim are remote-controlled and therefore not disallowed by international convention, in executing disruptive ambushes with impunity.

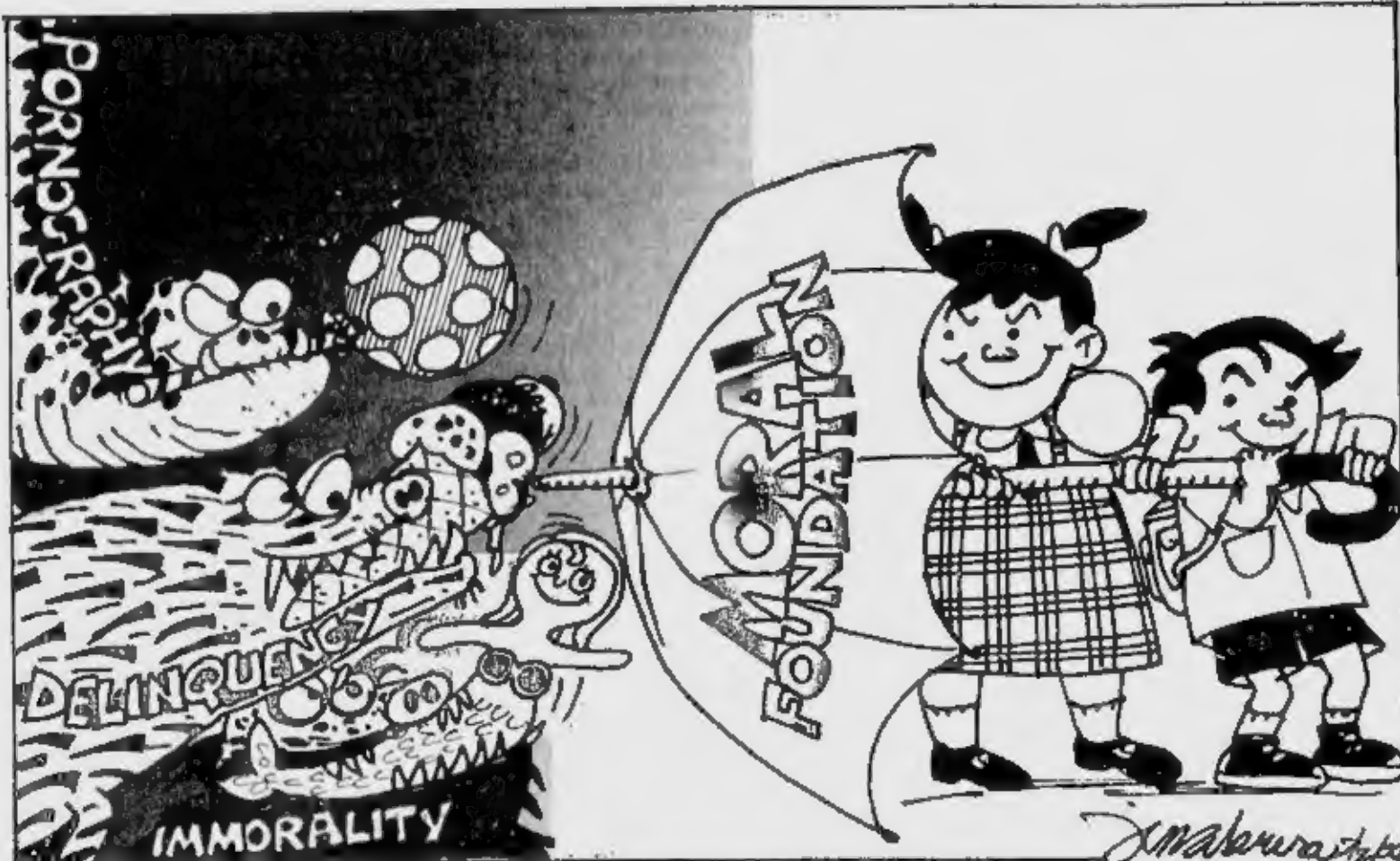
If this is the AFP's definition of victory, we wonder how the military defines defeat.

We welcome Senga's remarks, because they can help start a debate on a viable definition of victory. What does it mean to win the war on the insurgency? History tells us winning cannot depend on military factors alone. Yes, the AFP needs to buy arms and ammunition and the latest (or, at least, non-obsolete) military equipment; surely we cannot send our soldiers to battle unarmed and unprepared.

But just as surely, we cannot send our soldiers to battle an endless insurgency. We have always thought that the counter-insurgency role of the Armed Forces was twofold: to protect the Republic, and to force the insurgents off the battlefield and onto the negotiating table. History tells us an all-out war on a guerrilla movement cannot be won. This is not defeatism, but the deepest realism. It requires a strong, disciplined military; how else can rebels be forced off the battlefield? But a realistic strategy also requires draining the water in which the fishes swim; that is, convincing the population in a communist area of influence of the alternatives, and providing public services even in the remotest barrio. Guerrilla warfare, after all, is about control of population, not control of territory.

"We will intensify our intelligence efforts," Senga said last week. "That's basic guerrilla tactics." Yes. Of course it is. But pinpointing the enemy's location is not enough. To use another word from another war, they are themselves embedded. The pure military solution cannot pry them loose; instead, their base of support must erode from within.

It is for this reason that we think the all-out war that President Macapagal-Arroyo declared on June 16 cannot succeed; it relies too much on a military solution.



A fairyland Metro Manila

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



But on the whole, the determined and widely-supported clean-up campaign gave the old continent a new look.

Because of our chronic lack of water although we are living in an archipelago, we probably will not be able to employ the water-hose method that proved so effective in Europe. So perhaps the best alternative to clean up our own snot is to paint over it. I have seen portions of the problem erased in this manner, which we may expand to cover the rest of the dingy places in our metropolis. We may yet attain the dream of a really clean city like the recently sanitized formerly filthy Calcutta in India.

Assuming that this remedy will be effective all over, the next problem will be the wherewithal to effect this expensive project. I know we will not have enough public funds for the purpose because the bulk of the money collected from the taxpayers by the government will be squandered by the legislators and the Cabinet members for their supposedly official junkets abroad. So we will have to look for other sources for the millions of pesos the massive work will entail.

The sources I have in mind are the people who have more than enough pesos and dollars and can afford to assist the nation from which they have amassed their considerable fortunes. I refer to the taipans. They are the capitalists of industry in this country who can manifest their gratitude to it by sharing their enormous wealth with our people in this mammoth

and necessary undertaking. The tremendous affluence of these economic titans will hardly be diminished by the relatively small contributions they will make to the clean-up and even beautification of this land that has treated them so generously.

Some of them will probably protest that they are already doing more than enough for the country's welfare by paying millions of pesos in taxes, besides providing well-paid jobs to numberless Filipinos who otherwise would be further swelling the ranks of our unemployed. True enough; for there is no denying or belittling their magnificent role in promoting the prosperity, or at least the financial security, of the masses and enhancing our economic future. All these are a given for which the whole nation is truly thankful.

But it would be like adding icing to the cake, as it were, and at not really much cost to them, if they would expand their civic spirit a little bit more by agreeing to finance the project I am here humbly proposing.

Just imagine if instead of its present squalid appearance, Metro Manila were to surprisingly become spanking clean and attractive, for all of us to behold and tourists to admire. Imagine further if instead of painting it the usual drab gray and the unexciting beige of the conservative past, the present unappealing infrastructures were to be dressed up in cheerful crayon colors—carnation red and royal blue and lemon yellow—to make the dirty bridges, the dark tunnels, the moldy cloverleaves, and all the unclean eyesores of the city sparkling now like a veritable Disneyland. Wouldn't we, and especially the children and all the young at heart whatever their age, like to live in a fairyland like that?

Well, I have to admit, this old man must be dreaming. But impossible dreams can come true, as Sir James Barrie would remind us, like roses in December.

Arise!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



God's name and use religion for their worldly ambitions.

"Why this commotion and weeping?" Jesus asks each one of us today to trust Him rather than go on being troubled and miserable. Today, look into your heart. What is it that bothers and burdens you? Surrender them all unto the Lord, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

What is it that bothers and burdens us in our country today? More rightly, who are they that bother us and burden us as a people? Our sincere prayer is that the Lord free us from our burdens, and take away those that burden us.

Jesus singled out and searched for the woman who touched her clothes in a big, unruly crowd. He stopped, took time to reach out and heal her. How consoling to know that each one of us counts before God. How assuring indeed that you and I are not just a number, a client, an agenda or a project.

The woman who was healed without Jesus' prior knowledge or permission ("Who touched me?"), realizing what happened to her, approached Jesus trembling in fear and fell down before Jesus. Actually she "stole" healing from Jesus, but the good thing is that she acknowledged her fault, and "told him the whole truth." Jesus' response to her was: "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace, and be cured of your affliction." There can be no real healing without the truth. In the end, it is the truth, not the

manipulation or the hiding of it, that will give a person his/her true freedom and peace.

"Little girl, I say to you arise!" I take this as an invitation for all of us to rise above whatever burdens we have in our hearts and in our lives. Let us not allow ourselves to be imprisoned by complacency and laziness. Let us all arise, and do whatever mission is ahead of us.

It's July once again, and Christmas is but six months away. What will Christmas be for us this year? Will we have solved our problems as a nation by then? Will we have torn down the walls that divide us, and will we have healed the wounds that pain us? The answer to these questions depends on our deep faith in God, and in our relentless pursuit of the truth. Rest assured, God does not sleep. Goodness and truthfulness will triumph soon.

"She suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all she had." This is a timely note and reminder for all doctors whose mission is to help and to heal other people. Can you, perhaps, lower your professional fees, or sometimes render service for free? Whatever you did to your brothers and sisters, you did it for the Lord. Amen? Amen!

"Be strong and of good courage, fear not, neither be afraid... for the Lord thy God. He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Deuteronomy)

Let God be your pillar in these troubled times, text ON <space> PRAYER and send to 2018 for Globe/Sun and receive daily prayers. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

A moment with the Lord:
 Lord, help me to rise up and rise above my burdens and to reach out to you in faith. Amen.

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The men who play god

SERENDIPITY IT WAS WHEN I CHANCED UPON a book and an article on a school magazine while organizing things in my study room. Authored by the late Dr. Arturo Rotor, "The Men Who Play God" is a collection of 10 short stories about physicians. The article "Tao Pa Rin" is about the annual, traditional concerns held by young doctors of the state university. Inspired by mentors who never tired of telling us that medicine is both science and art, the concerts showcase in song, dance and skits, the other side of physicians—their laughter, frustrations, fears and triumphs. Not much is really known and appreciated by the laity about the life of the men and women behind the white coat.

For starters, the modern doctor has to undergo four years of pre-medicine for a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts course, five years of medicine proper and internship, four to seven years of residency (depending on the specialty), one year of fellowship—all of 13 to 16 years of study and several certifying examinations, before he or she can qualify as a "specialist." Add at least two hardship years for establishing practice before he starts earning a decent living. After making rounds in hospital wards or holding clinic, or after answering calls in far-flung barrios or a lecture in the academe, the doctor reverts to an ordinary homo sapiens like the rest of us inhabitants in this small, blue planet.

Behind that clinical facade—the stethoscope slung around the neck even as he bears in mind to not get personally involved lest decisions in treatment are clouded—he feels deep empathy and compassion for patients, particularly terminal cases and the indigent. Doctors, too, get sick. And it is a truism that doctors are the most difficult to manage since they are very aware of the complications and prognosis of illnesses. And this also is true—somehow, something is bound to go awry when it is a doctor who is undergoing a medical test, treatment or surgery. In his book, Rotor quotes a true-to-life short novel to describe a doctor-friend: "They recalled their adventures and misadventures... the paradox of it all, he murmured to himself, afraid of being heard by the

HIGH BLOOD

Eduardo V. Nievera, M.D.

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

small crowd. Of course, he was thinking about the life of physicians who, in their lifetime, came across cases which they encountered and discussed with colleagues—illnesses which they themselves would fall prey to, someday."

Ah, but doctors too, have their moments of humor, if only to relieve tension and fatigue. If one could only hear the jokes that go around during surgery and conferences, or that are interspersed in formal lectures by seasoned professors, my favorite comedian Gary Lising would drool with envy.

At the start of the X-ray examination of an understandably anxious patient who was given Valium (an oral tranquilizer) prior to being brought down to radiology, the technician gave her the routine explanation about "barium enema" (a rectal injection which makes possible X-ray visualization of the large intestine). Unfortunately, the patient somehow heard something else and started to alight from the X-ray table, blurring out: "What? You are going to give me Valium again? And this time from behind!"

Another doctor (who in good nature related this true incident over a cup of coffee) had the misfortune of getting stuffed inside his "camapped" sports car, stripped of his pants, and finally released in a secluded roadside in a province south of Manila. It was nighttime. But he retraced his steps in the bush, groping frantically in the dark for his favorite toupee which fell off somewhere.

And there is this successful MD who, up to this time, cannot forget this faux pas he made when

he was still an intern: "A 3-year-old male, single, with four brothers, all boys," he scribbled on the patient's profile.

Doctors gravitate toward the arts. Some are painters and hold exhibits during hospital or medical school anniversaries and conventions. Others are published writers, camera bugs (a few are members of the Camera Club), antique collectors, gun enthusiasts, hobbyists, sportsmen, musicians—and frustrated singers/dancers. One, a member of a bikers' group, would regularly pedal to Tagaytay, but with his chauffeur following him in his Mercedes-Benz. Another had a collection of Nazi memorabilia, and still another is the curator of a special museum. During Christmas programs in hospitals, you should watch senior citizen consultants dress to the nines, gamely going through the doggedly practiced steps of modern dances, or listen to that serious-looking doctor belting out the ballads of Frank Sinatra or mimicking the Beatles like everybody does in karaoke bars.

Physicians also go through the agony of deciding whether a son or daughter should take up medicine, too. A good number are inclined to discourage their children, knowing the long years of study, the sleepless nights reading tons of books, the interminable examinations, the expense that the course entails and the meager income during the early years of practice (especially for those already married and with children).

Once, while sitting around in the doctors' lounge, a group of us heard someone playing soothing and entrancing *kundimans* and *haranas* on the piano. The pianist, a colleague, said he learned to play by ear. Jokingly, he asked if we wanted to join the "Lonely Hearts Club." We answered we are just one of the many who appreciated good music but do not know the difference between a bar and a half-note. As he continued to play his beautiful pieces, we hummed along.

The doctors are *tao rin pala*.

Eduardo V. Nievera, M.D., 72, is with the Radiology Department of the Makati Medical Center.

Dancing rainbows

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE—THE TAXI DRIVER WAS A Die-hard Badstreet Boys fan, playing song after song for the entire hour it took to get from UP to the airport. By the time I stepped up for the body search in the initial check-in, half-dazed and mumbling the lyrics to "Get Down," I was confronted by the sight of the Steel Butterfly herself, Madam Imelda Marcos in the flesh, towering over me in a lime-green pantsuit. I didn't know whether to bow, kneel, ask to kiss her hand, or run away for fear of being accused of contaminating her air with my piebald tastes. Even in her 70s, it's not difficult to wonder why foreign journalists once called her "that exquisite woman."

I flew to Tacloban (home of The Lady herself and site of Douglas MacArthur's historic landing) for the festival season: my first assignment for Living Asia. Shown on cable around the world, the channel showcases the beautiful and the strange from this side of civilization. My job description is writer/host. The first question they asked on my job interview was whether I was willing to attempt anything—meaning eat anything, go anywhere, try anything and jump off a cliff if necessary. Yegads, I said yes.

The Kasadyaan Festival of Festivals brings together various fiestas from all over Leyte in one grand celebration. Together with the Pintados of Tacloban Festival—honoring the ancient art of body painting that had the Spanish calling Leyte people "the painted ones"—the two fiestas combined make June 29 a day for "kasadyaan" (meaning, festive joy). This year, a street dancing parade featured competing dances from the different towns, the championship a much sought-after honor.

Frankly, I've never been to any sort of festival, unless I count the Flores de Mayo where I participated when I was 6. I was a chubby little girl in a white dress—or more accurately, a white dress with a chubby little girl inside. I remember trudging along the streets of my village, stealing looks at the little boy marching beside me, the unsmiling young gentleman who had gingerly held my hand only at the insistence of our respective mothers—and, in the process, taken hold of my pitty-patty little heart. Ah, young love.

So I stand along the long stretch of Tacloban's main road, hemmed in by a group of high school kids with painted faces and mothers whose children seem to believe that the best vantage point could be found only after wiggling through my legs. We wait for what seemed like hours—in reality, it must have been only one.

Parched, I shoulder my way through the crowd into McDonald's. At the counter, the smiling cashier has the store logo painted on one cheek, a red and yellow starburst on the other. A printed poster beside the register advertises the "Pintados Treat"—Get one henna tattoo free, with a P100 purchase. Outside, every building has people peering out of second and third floor windows. A baby in a pink sweater and a blue bonnet yawns from the back of a motorcycle, held up by a proud mama. I stand waiting with the rest of the crew, scribbling notes and watching as two boys, wearing red and black Halloween monster masks, zoom past on motorcycles to howl at the camera. The air is electric. From above, it is a sea of umbrellas and eager faces.

And then the drums boom. The first group of dancers explodes into the day—slim young boys, bodies covered with white paint and streaked in blue, leaping, whirling and throwing themselves into the air. They come at a rush, group after group, beat after throbbing beat, paint mixing with sweat on gleaming brown skin.

It's like being inside a speeding carousel, watching colors blur and fade and flash—reds and purples and shimmering, screaming yellows, all burnished under the punishing heat of a sun more April than June. A band of teenage boys wearing dark shades, black T-shirts and with their faces painted white, hammer out a beat on drums suspended from the back of a pickup truck.

It's when I watch Dick the cameraman shooting away that I begin to wonder why they need a writer on this trip at all. With images like this, words are anticlimactic. An adolescent male with a headless bounces his painted rump, flashing a huge Julia Roberts smile while blowing kisses at the crowd. The smile disappears momentarily as he gestures for water. A teacher rushes in with frozen water in a plastic bag. The young prima donna pushes away the ice, butt still bouncing, arms still moving, demanding "I want mineral water."

According to Toto Cinco, the event organizer, a festival will live for only as long as the people believe in it. In Leyte, there's no doubt. A boy dances beside me, a tot in mismatched slippers, the left, four sizes larger than the tiny foot prancing inside it. He wears nothing more than briefs and a red loincloth, the small arms painted black and brown, and hair smeared with red paint. While the other dancers flag, exhausted by the long hours of parading and waiting, the boy pushes on, a look of fierce concentration on the gamin face. The army can't do better than hiring this little soldier.

There are the girls, all innocent allure, vivacious, vigorous and vibrant—a bright picture of flying skirts, tossing hair and audacity. There is no limit to what the dancers will do—near-naked young men roll on the scorching concrete, beautiful girls dance on top of moving ladders, and a boy clings to a bent pole whipped in a circle over our heads.

At the tail end of the parade, Efren, our coordinator, gives me a wink. "Dance with me," he says. I see Dick aiming his camera at me, I remember my job description, I see hips thrusting and feet kicking, grace and power and beautiful movement, I hear the drums pulsating and the crowd screaming—sometimes, a girl's got to do what a girl's got to do.

I jump in. And dance. May that tape be forever buried in the video archives.

The night we flew into Tacloban, I sat with the rest of the crew to figure out our plans for the week. Two of them rose to leave until they realized my coffee cup was half-full. In the interest of making a good first impression, I tried to gulp the coffee down fast—a difficult task when the coffee is hotter than Brad Pitt in "Ocean's Twelve." My boss stood up. "Take your time," he said. Then he adds with a smile: "Bisan mo lang."

There's much more to see, but a ticking clock is calling. Hurry, hurry, hurry, so I make the same promise General MacArthur made near half a century ago: "I shall return."

In the meantime, it's back to following bends in road and river, racing under a whipped cream June sky.

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A global, super-sized Superman

IT'S SUPERMAN IN AN AGE OF GLOBALIZATION. Finally, he's realized that it's not only Americans who're worth saving. There's a scene in the movie where TV newscasts are overheard reporting Superman sightings around the world, including one in Manila—which sends the local audience buzzing.

(Speculating about this mention of Manila, I told my kids the producers probably used this sound bite to appeal to every major market worldwide, replacing "Manila" with other cities where the movie's showing.)

But in fairness, Superman has become a global icon, one of the few immediately recognizable comic characters, breaching borders of geography, culture, religion and politics. Other nations may reject the concept of America as the world's policeman, but who doesn't want Superman on their side?

Five years after leaving Earth to search for possible remnants of his home planet Krypton, Superman returns and seeks to pick up where he left off. But while he has no trouble resurrecting his persona as the world's savior, restoring his private life requires some doing. Lois Lane, the love of his life, is now a mother and is "committed" to an editor on their paper, The Daily Planet. His earthly home, where he was schooled on the universe's wealth of knowledge, has been plundered for Lord knows what nefarious ends. In the movie, it seems even the journalistic career of Superman's alter ego, Clark Kent, is in dire trouble as he's shown doing nothing but answering to editor Perry White's summonses, like a puppy eager for scraps.

It's this tension between his public role and his private miseries that lends "Superman Returns" an emotional gravity and gives it more depth than one would have expected from a movie about a superhero. Kal El, aka Superman, is a hero for the world. And yet he is not of this world. When he flies off to space and hovers above the Earth, he hears a thousand voices echoing the never-ending conflict and violence that bedevil his adopted planet. And yet to help most effectively when his help is most needed, he must be able to screen out

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ambient noises, in a way favoring a few above everyone else. Who wouldn't develop a neurosis?

DIRECTOR Bryan Singer honors both the spirit and the story of the first two "Superman" movies directed by Richard Donner, which resurrected the franchise before it descended into camp in subsequent movies.

In fact, if it is at all possible, Singer manages to improve on the earlier movies, aided in no small way by far more sophisticated special effects and truly earthshaking sound, courtesy of THX systems.

Where this new movie falters is in its lead. True, when you're wearing the Superman costume and are shown flying through the stratosphere, acting becomes a superfluity. But Brandon Routh is even more wooden than called for, registering hardly any change in expression even when straining against the effort of hurling an island into outer space, or finding out that Lois has a child. Only now do I realize how gifted an actor Christopher Reeve was, for his Superman, while properly iconic, was also "human," conveying human emotions like dismay and desire, embarrassment and agony. Maybe Routh will grow into the role. For starters, he should consider musing his hair a bit and get rid of that distracting curl on his forehead—what girls of our generation used to call a "kuss me."

Superman is served well by the rest of the supporting cast, particularly by Kevin Spacey as Lex Luthor, who brings to his stereotypical villain a kind of boyish petulance and cold-hearted indifference. But I'm sorry to say that Kate

Bosworth proves too flimsy for the role of Lois Lane. Maybe I'm still reeling from memories of Margot Kidder as the spunky, witty, cynical and yet emotionally needy reporter who falls hard for Superman. It's hard to believe Bosworth could ever summon the street smarts to be a hard-boiled, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter. Especially when the script shows her doing such tremendously stupid things like unbuckling her seat belt just when her plane hits turbulence, or taking her young son with her as she investigates the villain's lair.

THE MOVIE'S excitement quotient ratchets up several degrees with a screening on the San Miguel-Coca-Cola Imax Theater, that not only blows up the movie several stories high, but also gives the audience a 3-D viewing experience for 20 minutes of the movie's running time.

The audience at the special screening (which started past midnight and ended at 3 a.m.) at the Mall of Asa cheered and hooted as Superman zoomed through the air, so close one could imagine feeling his cape swoosh past one's head. While the movie in its "normal" form is exciting enough, watching Superman's heroic feats in 3-D transforms the experience into an absolute thrill.

From what I've heard, so loud is the buzz that the Imax Theater has already sold out all screenings of the first week's showing. This, despite the pricey tickets at P350 each. At that screening, which was on a school night, to which some 100 tickets had been sold to the public, we encountered a couple and their four children who had bought their tickets a week before. "This was the only time slot still available," they explained, even as their children were beginning to nod off as we waited for the theater doors to open. When I asked if the kids could still wake up early enough for school the next day, their mother replied that they were all on the afternoon shift.

I thought it extraordinary that an average Filipino family would choose to invest a sizeable sum for the chance to view Superman in super dimensions. Then again, such parental investments are what childhood memories are made of.

Reflections on the death penalty abolition

WITHOUT MUCH DEBATE AND PUBLIC HEARING, Congress passed the bill abolishing the death penalty and the President signed it into law. In these times when heinous crimes imperil the daily lives of peaceful citizens, and unabated graft and corruption hinders the country's economic growth, the justifications for the abolition are flimsy.

Among the main reasons given for the abolition of the death penalty are: (1) it is not an effective deterrent to crimes; (2) human life is God-given, therefore, it must be respected and only God has the right to take it; (3) a death sentence that has been executed can no longer be remedied; and (4) it deprives a convict the opportunity to reform.

On the first reason, let it be stressed that the death penalty was re-imposed by Republic Act 7659 only on Jan. 1, 1994. Since then, not more than 10 convicts have been executed despite the fact that there are more than a thousand death convicts. Besides, most of the death sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment, if not indefinitely suspended. In short, there had been no real implementation of the death penalty law; therefore, there is not enough basis to say whether or not the death penalty is an effective deterrent to crimes.

To be an effective deterrent, the "threat" of death penalty should be complemented with the efficient and speedy administration of justice in the arrest, investigation and trial of the accused. Without this complement, death penalty would be a lonely scarecrow. Worse, in the absence of both—death penalty and efficient, speedy justice—our country will not be a wholesome place to live in.

On the second issue, the purpose of the death penalty is to uphold the sanctity of life. The taking of human life is justified by necessity under certain circumstances. One such situation is "self-defense." Another is the defense of the person or right of one's wife, ascendants, brothers and sisters, or relatives by affinity in the same degree,

COMMENTARY

Manuel R. Pamaran

and those by consanguinity within the fourth civil degree; and of the person or right of a stranger under circumstances analogous to self-defense (Art. 11, Par. 1, Revised Penal Code)

Under the law, the author thereof is freed from any and all liability, it being understood that had he not done the act, he or the person he defended would have been killed.

If under such circumstances—where at stake is only the life of the person defending or being defended—killing is justified, the more reason that the State is justified to take human life in defense of thousands of other lives and of the community itself. This, undoubtedly, gives greater meaning to the sacredness of human life.

Viewed from another angle, the abolition of the death penalty seriously sets back our fight against graft and corruption, especially against plunder which is punishable by death. It puts in serious doubt our thrusts toward and avowals for a clean and honest government.

As to the third issue, it is unlikely that someone innocent could be a "victim of execution." The victim of a crime or his heir—knowing that accusing an innocent person will set free the real wrongdoer and, therefore, he will not get justice—will in all likelihood see to it that he accuses only the person who has wronged him. This is human nature and is not debatable.

Moreover, our judicial system practically reduces to zero any error of judgment: A criminal complaint is first filed with the police officer who conducts an investigation to determine if there is a reasonable ground to charge the suspect. If such ground is found to exist, the case is forwarded to

the prosecutor who in turn conducts a preliminary investigation to determine if there is probable cause showing a crime has been committed and the suspect is probably guilty thereof. In the event of a positive finding, the case is filed with a regional trial court. If the accused is convicted and sentenced to death, his case is reviewed by the Court of Appeals and if affirmed, it goes up to the Supreme Court for automatic review. The votes of at least eight of the 15 justices are needed to affirm a death sentence. All these proceedings are done in succession and are adversarial in nature: the accused, assisted by counsel, is given his day in court to confront the witness(es) against him and to present witness(es) in his behalf. If there is even just an iota of doubt about his guilt, he is absolved or acquitted of the crime.

In the event that the death sentence is affirmed by the Supreme Court and becomes final, the accused has still a chance to have his case reviewed, this time by the President who decides whether or not the accused deserves to be granted executive clemency.

Lastly, the claim that the death penalty offers the criminal no room for reform is not accurate. On the contrary, it is the best way to reform criminals. In a limited sense, it may be said that the executed criminal will never have a chance to reform; but from a wider perspective, we can say that reformation occurs when criminals avoid suffering the same fate by not persisting in their evil ways. If they do, they have only themselves to blame if they end up with the death penalty.

Montaigne, a French essayist, once said: "We do not aim to correct the man we hang; we correct and warn others by him." Voltaire, another French poet, said it another way: "Life resembles the banquet of Damocles; the sword is ever suspended."

Manuel R. Pamaran is a retired Sandiganbayan justice.

TALK of the TOWN

Counterfeit drugs: A social menace

LIKE PIRATED DVDS, FAKE MEDICINES CAN BE FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES. They include those for hypertension, diabetes and erectile dysfunction, and antibiotics, multivitamins and cough syrup, according to the Bureau of Food and Drugs. It is estimated that counterfeits account for more than 10 percent of the global medicine market. Twenty-five percent of the medicines consumed in developing countries are believed to be counterfeit.

A recent study in *The Lancet* concluded that up to 40 percent of products labeled as containing *artusenate* (a medicine for combating malaria) had no active ingredients and therefore no therapeutic benefits.

Rich countries are not immune to the scourge of fake drugs. In the United Kingdom,

officials seized 5,000 packets of counterfeit Tamiflu early this year, estimated to be worth 500,000 pounds.

Unlike pirated DVDs, fake medicines can kill people. So stopping the production and sale of fake drugs is a must.

The campaign against counterfeit drugs has a related story—low-priced imported medicines. Under Republic Act No. 8203, the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, an unregistered imported drug product is considered a counterfeit. This makes importing cheap drugs from India for distribution in the Philippines illegal.

Providing cheap medicines to the public is like extending a lifeline to those who cannot afford the prohibitive costs of drugs in the country.

Be vigilant

By Maria Minerva P. Callimag,
MD, DPBA, MSC

DRUG COUNTERFEITING is a worldwide concern, which by its very nature is hard to detect, investigate or quantify. It can apply to both brand name and generic drugs, which means that a product is deliberately and fraudulently labeled in a way that suggests that it is the authentic, approved product made by the genuine manufacturer.

They look so real even pharmacists are being fooled. The hard fact is that most of these drugs find their way into the local chain of pharmacies.

Counterfeit drugs can have the wrong ingredient, an insufficient quantity of the active ingredient or

without the active ingredient at all. Packaging can also be faked with the use of sophisticated equipment capable of duplicating the authentic packaging.

Fake drugs also include expired products that have been re-labeled with new expiration dates.

Adulterated drugs are those that have lost some or all of their effectiveness from improper storage or handling. They are contaminated with bacteria and other microorganisms, or laced with other drugs that are not included in the label.

As physicians, our main concern is the fact that when undetected, the injured party in this unscrupulous trade is ultimately our patient. Counterfeit drugs hurt people, and oftentimes the victims are those in

most need of real, quality drugs. Our patients depend on us and the medicines that we prescribe for the alleviation of their conditions.

It therefore behooves each one of us to be vigilant, so that we may be able to determine patterns of adverse drug events in our patients. Such events may even take the form of no drug effect. Never turn a deaf ear when patients complain of worsening symptoms or of unusual side effects after taking a prescription drug. It is crucial that we educate our patients to increase awareness regarding this growing social menace.

(Callimag is the chair of the committee on food and drugs, Philippine Medical Association.)

Learn to recognize fake medicines

By Nazarita Larusa

FILIPINOS ARE NO STRANGERS to counterfeits. Walk through the aisles of any sange, and you'll find mountains of copycat goods. Designer labels are stitched onto anything from shirts to shoes, and original logos are copied on the covers of pirated DVDs and computer software. But there is one counterfeit that can harm or even kill you—counterfeit medicine.

Counterfeit medicines, as defined in Republic Act No. 8203 or The Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, are deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled products that apply to both brand and generic drugs.

They contain no active ingredients or less than what is required. These also include those refilled in genuine containers by unauthorized persons if the legitimate labels or marks are used, or imported drugs, which are not registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) except for personal use as confirmed and justified by accompanying medical records.

These medicines may be contaminated, contain dangerous ingredients, be outdated, or be completely without effect. Commonly copied drugs range from medicines for hypertension, diabetes and erectile

dysfunction to antibiotics, multivitamins and cough syrup.

The prevalence of counterfeit medicines is considered a serious health issue because medicines play an important role in health-care. Medicines prevent premature death, speed up healing and alleviate the symptoms of diseases that cannot yet be cured, making fake drugs all the more reprehensible. The intake of counterfeit medicine can lead to therapeutic failure, or in some cases, untimely death of the unsuspecting patient.

The BFAD, consistent with its mandate, is fighting a battle to protect the public against counterfeit medicines. Over the past months, BFAD was able to issue preventive closure orders to drug stores, and even sari-sari and grocery stores found to be selling counterfeit medicines.

Raids

BFAD had also conducted saturation drives and assisted in the conduct of raids and buy-bust operations in various cities. Just recently, BFAD and the World Health Organization conducted a workshop, which was participated in by different national law enforcement agencies. The workshop was held to develop a national plan of action for combating counterfeit medicines.

The bureau, however, is hard put doing an all-out drive against the illegal manufacture, importa-



- Medicine**
- Multivitamins
 - Analgesics
 - Antipyretic
 - Antibiotics
 - Steroids
 - Antihypertensives

SOURCE: BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS

tion and sale of counterfeit drugs due to the inadequacy of its resources. In addition, counterfeiting operations are becoming more sophisticated with each passing year.

In sustaining our efforts, the Samahan Laban sa Peking Gamot, a coalition that aims to inform and educate the public about the prevalence and perils of counterfeit medicines, has vowed to assist consumers become more vigilant about counterfeit medicines through a mass media-based public awareness campaign.

Hotline

The Samahan was able to set up a toll-free hotline (1-800-10-PAKEMED/325-3633) for consumers to report any suspected counterfeit drug product or counterfeiting activities. Cooperation at every level of society, from the national governments and its enforcement agencies all the way to the individual consumer is imperative to effectively curtail the distribution of counterfeit drugs in the country.

For this reason, the public is advised to learn to recognize a potential counterfeit drug i.e.—the lack of any generic name in the packaging. Search for a BFAD registration number, the lot and batch number, and the expiration date. Finally, check the texture, color and content of the medicine you take to see if it differs from the usual medicine you are taking.

(Larusa is the chief regulation officer of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.)

Top drug firms in the Philippines

Name	Sales (in million pesos)		Profits (in million pesos)		
	2004	1994	2004	1994	
Zuellig	41,823	11,342	254	105	* Drug distributors (based on SEC classification)
United Laboratories	17,271	7,507	1,419	1,195	
Wyeth ^a	11,825	3,524	2,505	825	
Metro Drug ^a	10,040		267		
Bristol-Myers Squibb	9,073	1,558	1,820	1,138	
Dethem ^a	7,925		67		
GlaxoSmithKline ^a	7,458		1,036		
Pfizer	6,906	728	382	89	
Abbott Laboratories	4,381	1,656	475	298	
Astrazeneca	3,383		330		
Boehringer Ingelheim	2,689	708	201	125	* Merged with Zentec PLC in April 1999
Roche	2,659	679	207	72	
Bayer	2,064	1,665	225	110	* Acquired by Pfizer in 2000
Warner-Lambert ^a		1,263		202	
Glaxo ^b		1,202		194	* Completed by Kato Petrochem, PDI Research
SmithKline Beecham Research ^c		863		32	
Astra Pharmaceuticals ^d		1,048		104	

SOURCE: SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Amend patent system to lower drug prices

By Elpidio Peria

PEOPLE BUY FAKE MEDICINES because the genuine products are expensive. This argument is flawed.

The high prices of medicines and proliferation of fake ones are two different issues. Each issue needs to be examined separately. First, let us establish why medicine is very expensive in the Philippines. Although the country was the first in Asia to pass a generic drugs law in the 1980s, we still rank second to Japan in having the highest medicine prices in the region.

Studies by the Department of Health and the Department of Trade in 1999 found that five out of every nine medicines cost more in the Philippines than in Malaysia or Indonesia. Another study conducted by Health Action International showed that

Amoxil, an antibiotic manufactured by a multinational, sells at a higher price here than in the United Kingdom or Canada. Medicines in the Philippines are 18 times more expensive than those sold in India or Canada.

Monopoly

Statistics aside, the reason medicines in the country are expensive is the monopoly of multinational drug companies. They control around 70 percent of the Philippine pharmaceutical market. (See table on top drug firms.) Their dominance extends to production, registration, distribution, and, yes, even marketing. Small companies that attempt to offer a generic equivalent are often sent threatening letters to desist from their actions or be sued.

Another policy instrument of the state that multinational drug companies use to maintain their

dominance in the market is the patent system. This is the reason Pfizer is suing the Bureau of Food and Drugs and Philippine International Trading Corp. for taking steps to register and import from India the lower-priced equivalent of its patented Norvasc.

Roxas bill

It is fortunate that Sen. Mar Roxas has filed Senate Bill No. 2139 to amend the existing patent system in the country to facilitate the production of low-priced medicines.

Second, people buy fake medicines not because they are expensive but because people do not have enough or correct information on what constitutes proper medication. The slick marketing efforts of multinational drug companies improperly link lower-priced medicines to fakes. In fact, in a typical Bonka ng Bayan outlet, one question often asked by a buyer, un-

aware that lower-priced medicines are possible, is "Why is it cheap? Is it fake?"

Correct misimpression

The Department of Health should do a lot more to address this. It should issue a statement to correct the impression created by the current campaign against counterfeit drugs. It should emphasize that not all lower-priced medicines, particularly generic ones, are fake. Being part of the group against counterfeit medicines, it should call on the coalition to be more responsible in its print ads and media statements.

Republic Act No. 8203, the law banning counterfeit drugs, should be amended to remove the clause "an unregistered imported drug product" from the definition of a counterfeit drug. This makes it difficult for Filipino drug companies to import cheaper drug equivalents from India or Pakistan, as they are

easily subjected to harassment by multinational drug companies should they attempt to register these imported drugs.

Remedy

Senate Bill 2139 seeks to remedy this. The measure proposes to incorporate the principle of international exhaustion of rights into our patent system. This means that the rights of a patent holder on any patented medicine sold outside the Philippines is already exhausted. The patent holder in the Philippines can no longer sue companies importing that patented drug. Those who seek to import these branded drugs can no longer be sued, an idea that is not practiced here because our patent system has in place a national exhaustion of rights principle.

The bigger issue that should merit a robust debate is the Philippine patent system—how it perpetuates the dominance of multina-

tional drug companies and how it keeps medicine prices in the country much higher than those in other parts of Asia.

The House of Representatives should therefore, fast track the counterpart version of the Roxas bill, and pass it before the end of the year. If there is one legislative achievement that members of Congress seeking reelection could brag about to their constituents, it is the bill amending the patent system. It could finally break the dominance of the multinationals in the Philippine market and enable the production of lower-priced medicines.

(Peria, a lawyer, is convener of the Ayos na Gamot sa Abot-Kayang Presyo (Agap), a coalition of civil society organizations, health professionals, consumer groups, labor unions and key personalities.)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO
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600 troops sent to 6 Bulacan towns



BLOOMS
A vendor displays fossilized roses at an agro-industrial booth during the Sambal Cagayana Festival that ran until June 29 in Tuguegarao City.

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon
Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—More Army soldiers were sent to Bulacan's capital city and five adjoining coastal towns on Saturday, increasing to 600 the military's forces there, a fisherman's group reported on Saturday.

The soldiers operate now in Malolos City and the towns of Calumpit, Hagonoy, Paombong, Buacan and Obando, according to Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Quoting reports from local chapters, Corpuz said the movements of residents in Hagonoy have been controlled or restricted since last week after soldiers blocked several entry and exit points and established detachments in Barangays San Roque, Mercado, San Miguel, Sagrada and San Isidro.

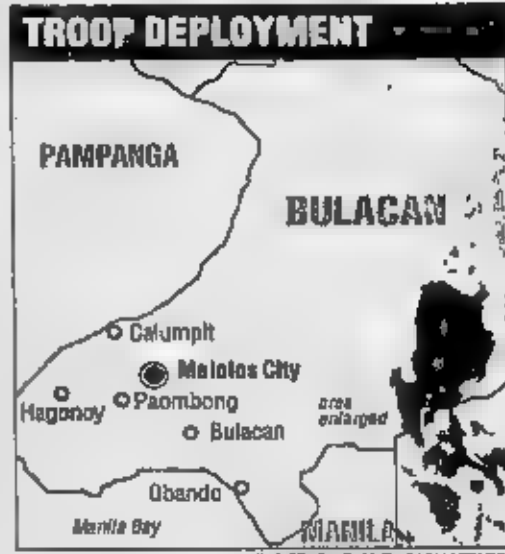
In Malolos and the five towns, teams of between 10 and 20 soldiers take turns doing round-the-clock foot patrols in the villages daily, he said.

A few

But Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division operating in Central Luzon, disputed Corpuz's report.

"We're only a few there, not 600," Palparan said.

He declined to give the actual troop strength in the areas but said he would bring in more forces to



flush out and capture the rebels. Palparan said leaders and members of the Pamalakaya and the party-list group Anakpawis were being singled out in the campaign.

"Silang nagbibigay ng problema diyan (They're the ones causing problems there)," he said.

Asked what these problems were, he said those groups had been "intimidating civilians, recruiting for the (New People's Army), seizing fishponds or extorting P50,000 monthly from fishpond owners."

"It's necessary to single out those groups," he said.

Corpuz said the soldiers go from house to house, asking residents if they are supporters of the NPA, Corpuz told the INQUIRER by phone.

Usual suspects

Leaders and members of Pamalakaya and Anakpawis are often singled out and accused of supporting the NPA, he said.

But he said they are "not ever engaged" in the activities that Palparan was attributing to them.

Corpuz said the strict watch by soldiers makes civilians afraid of reporting the situation to their local officials.

He claimed the "climate of terror has intensified" in Bulacan.

DepEd agrees to transfer school in Bulusan danger zone

SORSOGON CITY—THE Department of Education agreed to relocate an elementary school in Casiguran, which was found to be within the 4-km permanent danger zone around Bulusan Volcano.

Marilyn Dimaano, acting DepEd division superintendent, said she had conferred with the parents of the pupils enrolled at the Inlagadian Elementary School and they

agreed to the transfer of classes to the Escuela Elemental School, the nearest school to the affected barangay.

This was the temporary solution to ensure the safety of the schoolchildren while the Sangguniang Bayan of Casiguran has yet to decide on the problem.

Inlagadian Elementary School was found to be 3.9 km away from the volcano, according to a survey of the Philippine

Army, Casiguran mayor Edwin Hamor was quoted as telling Dimaano.

The DepEd official said that as agreed upon with the Parent-Teachers and Community Association, Grades 1-3 will hold classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday while Grades 4-6 will conduct classes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The school has a total of 257 pupils with six teachers and

one school head.

"We were constrained to agree to a permanent relocation to ensure the safety of the pupils and the faculty," said Dimaano.

She assured parents that the teachers have been trained on safety and disaster management and they have their own response plan in case of an emergency. Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Tricycles here to stay as drivers, operators gather in Iloilo confab

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—TRICYCLES that have become part of the Filipino way of life and culture are here to stay.

Stakeholders of the country's tricycle transportation industry are gathered here for the three-day First National Conference on Tricycle Transportation Development to map out a national master plan to develop the industry.

"Tricycles are here to stay for (a long) time," said Jesus Cruz, president of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines, which organized the conference.

Manuel Jose Camagay, Research Associate at the University of the Philippines National Center for Transport Studies, said the conference is long overdue because the tricycles have been in existence for the last 50 years but its concerns have not been addressed by national government agencies.

Around 800 participants including vice mayors, chairs of municipal and city committees on transportation, leaders of transport groups and manufacturers will attend work shops and forums to discuss concerns confronting the sector like franchising and regulation, discipline of drivers on traffic rules and regulations and social welfare benefits.

The conference would also include sessions on sharing of best experiences on converting tricycles into more environment-friendly vehicles.

Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar said there was a need for uniformity in regulation imposed by local government units.

Under the Local Government Code, the franchising and regulation of hired tricycles have been transferred to city or municipal councils.

Andanar said rules and regulation on public safety requirement should also be implemented, especially in remote areas where motorcycles and tricycles are the only means of transportation.

Cruz said the current thrust of development plans to institute mass transport systems and gradually phase out two-stroke engines mostly used by tricycles are only appli-



ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

cable in highly urbanized areas.

"We must take a holistic view in addressing the issue of air and noise pollution blamed among others on tricycles," Cruz said in a press conference.

Cruz said there are an estimated 1.2 million tricycle units with franchises and another 500,000 that are illegally plying routes, which comprise around 34 percent of the total number of public utility vehicles in the country.

He said an estimated 5.1 million families in the country depend on the operation of tricycle units for their income.

"We must come up with a plan that would address the environmental concerns but not jeopardize the means of livelihood of millions of Filipinos," said Cruz.

Quoting a study of the Asian Development Bank conducted in Quezon City and Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Cruz said 84 percent of the population in these areas relies on tricycles as their means of transportation.

Cruz said the application for franchises to operate tricycles have increased "exponentially" in the last five to 10 years.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas, president of the League of Cities of the Philippines, said most, if not all, of 117 cities in the country use tricycles as dominant mode of transportation.

Trenas said the introduction of new technology would raise earnings of those involved in the industry at the same time support efforts for cleaner air.

The tricycles have become integrated in the economy and the daily life of Filipinos that it would be computed to eliminate or significantly reduce their numbers, said Camagay.

Camagay said the operation of tricycles should be integrated in development plans of local government units because these are the means of transportation for the populace and for carrying goods.

"It would be more complex to reduce it. What we can do is reduce the negative impact," Camagay told the INQUIRER.

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INQUIRER *Mindanao*

A legacy of T'boli brass casting, basketry

By Russtum Pelima
Contributor

IT IS RATHER A VERY COMPLEX and physical process, using the earth, water and fire."

This was how T'boli craftsman Awelado Samlang described in the vernacular his ancient craft and living tradition that he is passing on—brass casting.

Recently, Samlang taught 10 volunteers how to make bells and other art forms from molten brass. Now in his 60s, he learned brass casting in his early teens from his father.

Brass casting has been part of the T'boli tradition for many generations. The products have been used to adorn native women and men, and even prized horses.

"The T'boli women are known for their body ornaments. During ordinary days, they can be seen wearing several sets of beaded necklaces, multiple brass bracelets, brass or beaded dangling earrings," according to a fact sheet prepared by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

"Both the men and women wear brass ring in sets of five for each finger," it said.

Artistic wealth

The NCIP notes that the T'boli people have been known for their wealth of crafts. Living in the mountain ranges of Sarangani, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces, they produce brass figures of humans and animals, bells and metal boxes.

Samlang uses charcoal, wooden ironing plates, potted clays, bee hives, and brass from junk shops to create his pieces.

Another elegant T'boli work of art is the *hilar*, which is made of hundreds of brass bells joined together to form the native belt that the people use in dancing and other community rites. The bells produce a sound distinct for the tribe.

The provincial government has recognized the priceless significance of the T'boli crafts. During the past two years, it has made efforts to upgrade the traditional skills in brass casting, basketry making, mat weaving, and beads making through its Indigenous Peoples Development Program (IPDP).

On June 20, the first batch of 10 native students of brass casting and 10 other students of basket making graduated after completing a month-long training in the IPDP's School of Living Tradition (SLT). The chic baskets of the volunteers trained by Lambanan Tagum were exhibited during the commencement exercises.

Preserving culture

"The main purpose of the SLT program is to preserve our culture," said program director Mari-beth Farnazo. "Look at our (T'boli) children today. They do not know how to dance the T'boli any more."

"Given adequate fund and training, we can have more skilled T'bolis and [eventually an] increase in production," Farnazo said.

Through its Indigenous People Culture and Traditional Arts Research, the IPDP aims to preserve the natives' literature and cultural practices which were handed down to younger generations by word of mouth.

The T'boli constitute the second largest group of indigenous people in Sarangani, after the B'laan. They live in the village of Falel in Barangay Tamadang and in nearby Barangay Salakit.

T'boli communities are also found in several barangays of Maitum town, near the boundary of South Cotabato. Across the Daguna mountain range from Maitum and Kiamba are the municipalities of T'boli and Lake Sebu.

Nenita Barroso, provincial trade director, said the celebration of "Yaman Mindanao" in the region next month would give a chance for the T'boli to showcase their crafts.

"There is an opportunity to market these products. Manufacturers will buy them in big volumes when we can produce more," Barroso said.

Nonformal education

Among the expected visitors are European buyers and investors from Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Provincial Board Member Arturo Lawa, chair of the indigenous people and cultural development committee, said he would sponsor a resolution to include brass casting and basket making in the nonformal education program in Sarangani.

Board member Rommel Palgu, a native of Kiamba, pledged to provide P20,000 as initial assistance fund for the *lunad* of his own.

Kiamba, 93 kilometer west of General Santos City, is a melting pot of diverse cultures. It has 48,000 inhabitants who include the B'laan, Sang T'boli, Ilocano, Cebuano, Boholano, Waray, Bicolano and Kapampangan.



AWELADO Samlang (middle) is the only living brass caster in South Cotabato.

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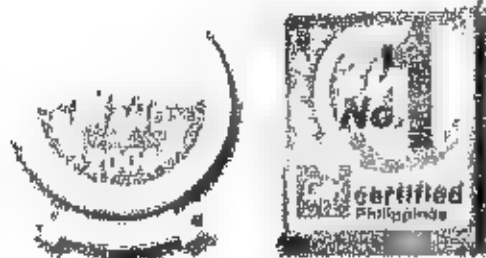
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RP agri doing bad, but gov't to stick to WTO

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE agriculture sector has performed poorly since the country's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994 but the Department of Agriculture is far from rethinking the wisdom of becoming a member of the trade body.

Jerome Bunyi, a WTO expert of the DA's policy, research and services, said the idea of a WTO withdrawal for the Philippines is farfetched even if the country's trade negotiators are finding it difficult to win favorable concessions from developed countries.

Bunyi discussed the effects of the WTO on agriculture on Friday here, the last day of Benguet State University's 90th founding anniversary celebrations.

"We will lose more if we think of withdrawing from the WTO. Besides, we have to face the realities of globalization or else we will be left out," he said.

The Senate ratified the country's membership in the WTO in 1994, which compelled domestic agriculture to commit adjustments in import tariffs, domestic support services and export subsidies.

Bunyi said from 1994 to 2004, agriculture posted a modest average growth rate of 3 percent, save for "exceptional performances" in banana, pineapple and coconut exports.

"But agriculture suffered stagnant productivity as our local markets showed poor competitiveness," Bunyi said.

The results were saddening, he said, as the country turned from a "net agri exporter" in the early 90s into a "net agri importer" in the mid 1990s during the WTO membership.

But these results were largely due to domestic factors and not because of the country's commitments to the WTO, Bunyi said.

"The modest growth was brought about by unstable weather conditions, like the El Niño, and the Asian financial crisis in 1997-1998 that impacted on the local economy," he said.

These two factors, he said, disturbed the continuous growth of agricultural products as they made economy a "boom and bust" type, meaning unstable and lackluster, and made the infusion of domestic capital scarce and expensive.

Bunyi, who was one of the country's negotiators in the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December last year, said a crucial factor that stunted agriculture growth for the next 10 years after the WTO membership was the lack of domestic support.

For instance, he said, safety nets had been provided for agriculture to cushion the impact of free trade but the government failed to fully provide its part of the bargain.

Bunyi cited the lack of funds allotted for the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Republic Act No. 8435) that could have enhanced agricultural research and development, and modernized agriculture production.

"This domestic support is needed to boost local production even if it is costly to enforce and maintain," he said.

The 2006 reenacted national budget allotted P15 billion to the DA, which is less than half of the P32 billion required by the Afma.

Delmar Carifio, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



WAR DANCE

Members of a tribe in Badlangan, Iloilo perform a war dance during the celebration of the Pandayan Festival in the town on June 23. The festival seeks to salute the town's effort to promote its residents as skilled, responsible and dignified workers.

ARNOLD ALMACEIN/PHILIPPINE BUREAU

20 Pampanga officials go to HK on a 'junket'

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT least 20 officials of the Pampanga provincial government left for Hong Kong on Thursday in what Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said was a junket sponsored by Gov. Mark Lapid.

Provincial Administrator Fidel Arcenas on Friday confirmed the departure of the department heads but said that was not for any official business.

"I think it's personal," Arcenas said.

He could not say if the officials went together for a vacation.

But he denied that their fare and pocket money were shouldered by Lapid. "They paid for their own," Arcenas said.

A travel order obtained by the INQUIRER from a capitol source showed that Lapid authorized on June 22 the June 29-July 2 travel.

Some in the list are not known to be regular travelers abroad, a check with some capitol employees showed.

In the order, Lapid said "it is understood that the travel shall not entail the disbursement of public funds."

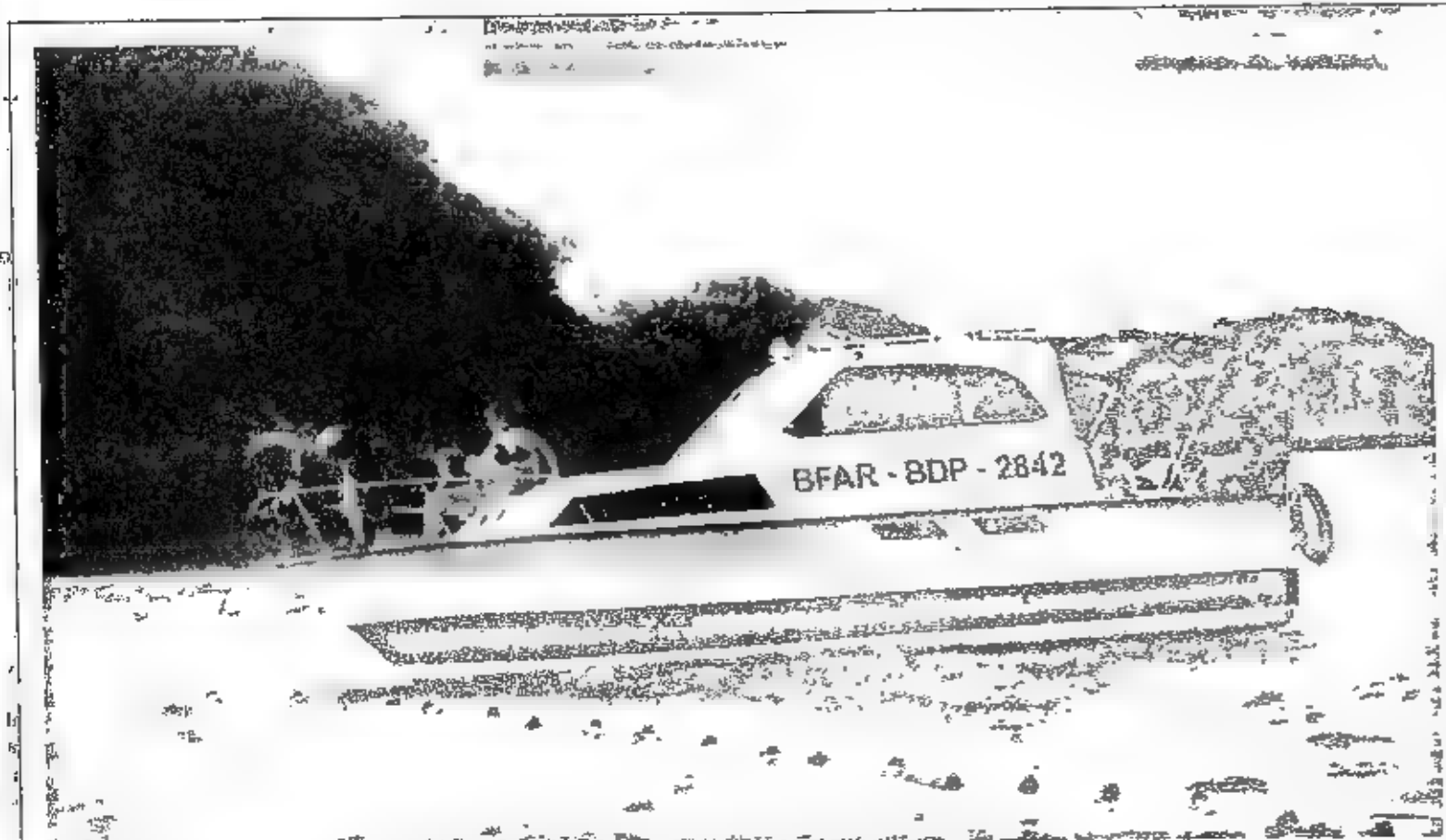
Administrative Order No. 103, which encouraged austerity measures in government, suspended foreign travels except for ministerial meetings and trainings that are grant-funded or undertaken at no cost to the government.

Arcenas said the services of the capitol went on as usual even in

the absence of those officials because their assistants continued their functions.

Guiao questioned why the officials took their leave all at the same time, saying those were "key officials" of the provincial government.

In 2004, an anonymous complainant sent a letter to the Civil Service Commission in Central Luzon to disclose that capitol officials made foreign travels almost every month. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



OFFICIAL FUNCTION

Bikini-clad women enjoy a ride aboard a boat of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources inside the Giant Clam Protected Area of the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan. As they were not supposed to be there, some people from another boat shouted at them to get out of the protected area, but without letting them escape with this shot.

CONTINUED PHOTO

Town runs out of funds for phone, electricity

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN del Sur—The local government here can no longer pay for its telephone, water and electric bills since the funds allocated for these basic necessities at the town hall and the public market have already been exhausted.

Honorato Nacorda, municipal treasurer, told the Sangguniang Bayan that appropriations for water bills amounting to P600,000 and P230,000 for telephone bills have already run out while only P130,000 in funds are left from the P1.4 million annual allocations for electricity usage.

Nacorda has asked the SB members to appropriate more funds through another supplemental budget to sustain the smooth operations of the local government and not imperil the delivery of basic services of the town hall and the Municipal Public Shopping Mall.

But opposition SB member Joselito Beldad shrugged off the distress call, saying the local gov-

ernment did not experience it last year.

"What else is new here? This has been going on since last year," Beldad said as he blamed financial managers of the local government for not adhering to the quarterly budget allocations which caused the perennial deficit of the town's coffers.

A similar problem was faced by the local government last December when they received a notice of disconnection from the San Francisco Water District and the Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative for overdue accounts.

This prompted Nacorda to negotiate with the Land Bank of the Philippines to allow the local government to use its P900,000 yearly loan amortization to pay for its three-month water and electric bills.

SB members agreed to replenish the bank obligation this year by allocating the amount for this year's budget but the plan fizzled out when they and Mayor Carl Elias Lademora never reached an



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BAYO

agreement for an increased 2006 budget.

The proposal to allocate a new budget to prevent a cutoff of telephone, water and electric connections next month will also be remote since this has not been part of the yet another controversial proposed supplemental budget passed by the SB members.

Lademora vetoed several items in the ordinance after his additional P118,000 intelligence fund and P687,300 fund for the un-

paid three-month salary of casuals in his office were not included in the proposed supplemental budget.

The mayor also did not agree that his P1.5 million budget for the purchase of a new vehicle was slashed by P345,000 by the SB committee on finance, budget and appropriations.

The committee is chaired by his erstwhile strong ally, now bitter rival SB member Nila Palabrica.

"I manifest my refusal to sign and approve the ordinance lest public service by which we are bound to do would be sacrificed," Lademora said in his veto message sent to SB members during Wednesday's regular session.

Last week, Vice Mayor Joselito Beldad offered to sacrifice his P650,000 allocation for his new vehicle in favor of the unpaid casual wages and the repair of the clogged up drainage system around the town poblacion.

Chris V. Panganiban, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

3 killed in NLEX mishap

MARILAO, Bulacan—A driver and his two companions were killed on Friday when their delivery van hit a dump truck along the southbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway here. Reports from the Manila North Tollways Corp.'s (MNTC) traffic management center said the delivery van's helpers, Arnel Jain and Joselito Urbino, died instantly. The van driver, Filomeno Adena, died while being taken to the Manila Central University Hospital in Caloocan City. MNTC reports said Adena fell asleep while at the wheel, causing the van to hit the rear of the dump truck that he was tailing along the Barangay Patublig section of the NLEX.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Banaue loses stalls to fire

BAGUIO CITY—The tourist town of Banaue in Ifugao lost a major income generator when a fire razed a row of stalls selling souvenir items in Barangay Viewpoint there on June 19. Banaue Mayor Jerry Dalipog said the fire lasted for an hour and destroyed about P7 million worth of souvenir items such as woodcarvings, woven cloth, jewelry and trinkets, and souvenir shirts sold in at least 18 stalls. The stalls were built in the view deck of Barangay Viewpoint Dalipog said before the fire struck, the local government had planned to build a new two-story view deck to accommodate more tourists.

Desiree Caluza and EV Espiritu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor says guns not his

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Mayor Eulogio Agatep Jr. of Lasam, Cagayan, said the firearms seized by suspected communist rebels from his relatives' house on June 20 were all licensed and intended for barangay officials in his town. Agatep said the five shotguns, an ArmaLite rifle and bullets were kept in the house of his relatives in Barangay Calao Sur in Lasam before their distribution. He also disputed claims of the New People's Army that the house was his armory and "jueteng" draws were held there. He said he believed that the raid was orchestrated by his political rivals and not by NPA rebels.

Vikram Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Calder, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Quake shakes Ilocos Norte

LAOAG CITY—A 3.1 magnitude earthquake hit this capital city of Ilocos Norte on Thursday night but there were no reports of injuries or damage, the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said. The quake's epicenter was located 31 km southwest of Laoag. It was felt at intensity 3 in Pasuquin and Paay towns and intensity 2 in Sinait, Sto. Domingo and Santa towns in Ilocos Sur, and Baguio City. The quake struck two days after a magnitude 4 tremor hit Vigan City in Ilocos Sur.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Politics rears ugly head

DIGOS CITY—Even as elections would be held next year yet, the wind of politics has already swept Davao del Sur as the two representatives of the province announced their intention to run in the gubernatorial elections. Rep. Douglas Cagas of the first district said President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged to back his gubernatorial bid. Cagas has lately been visiting areas in the second district, which is under Rep. Claude Bautista. In his visits, Cagas would always criticize the leadership of the second congressional district. Bautista also became highly visible in various public gatherings in the first district.

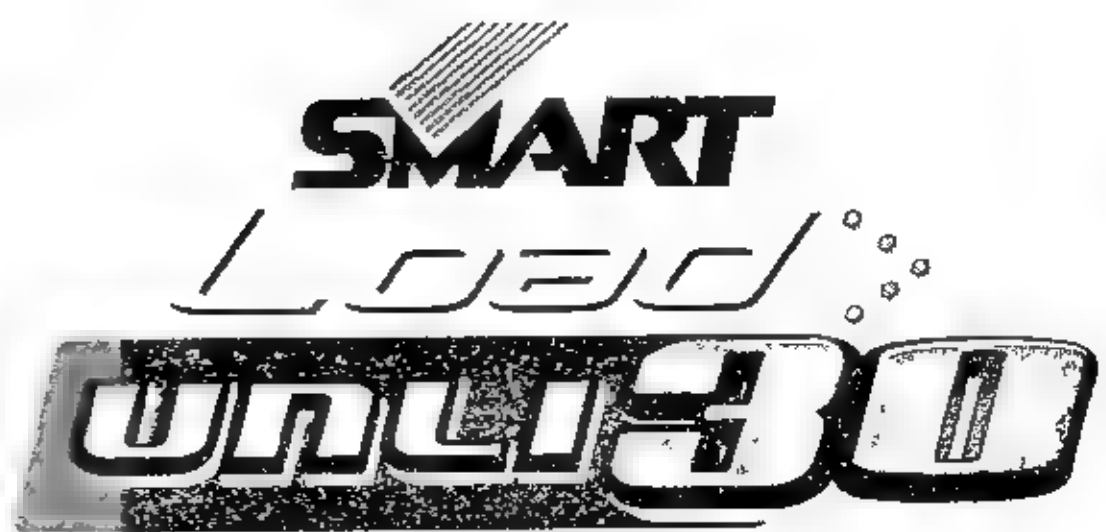
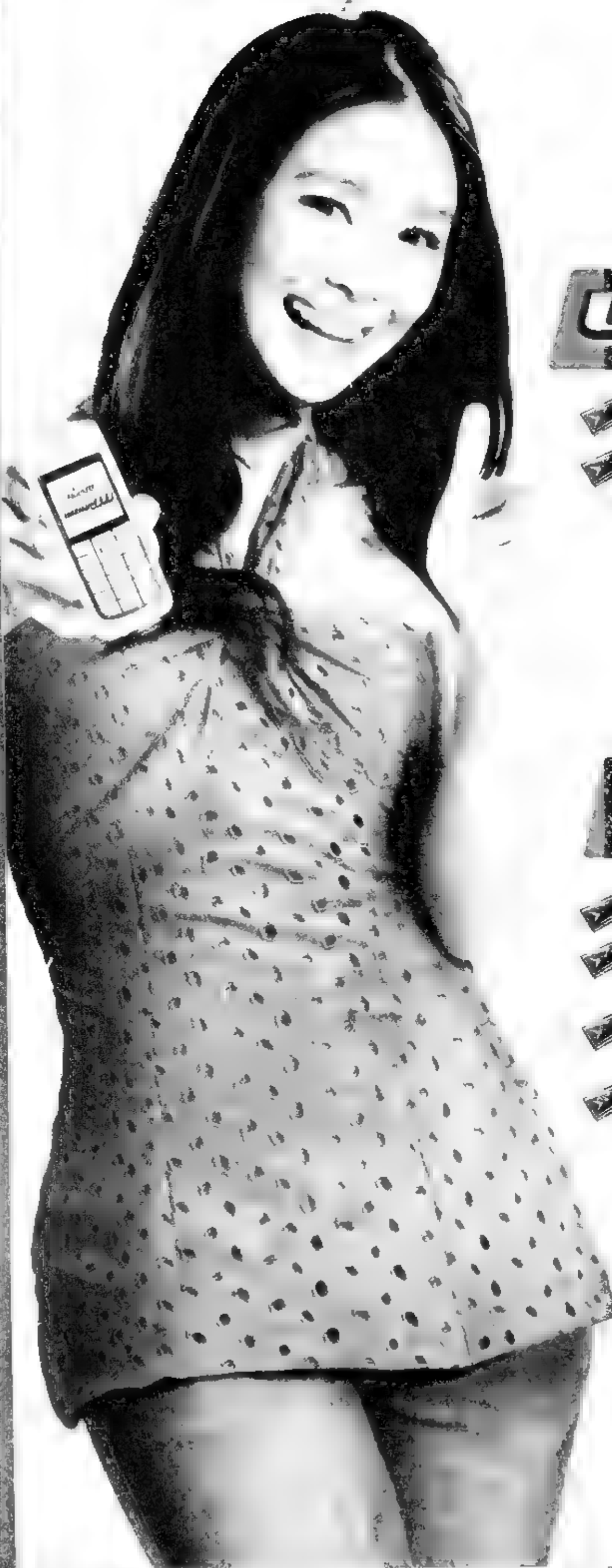
Eldio Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Motorcyclist dies in crash

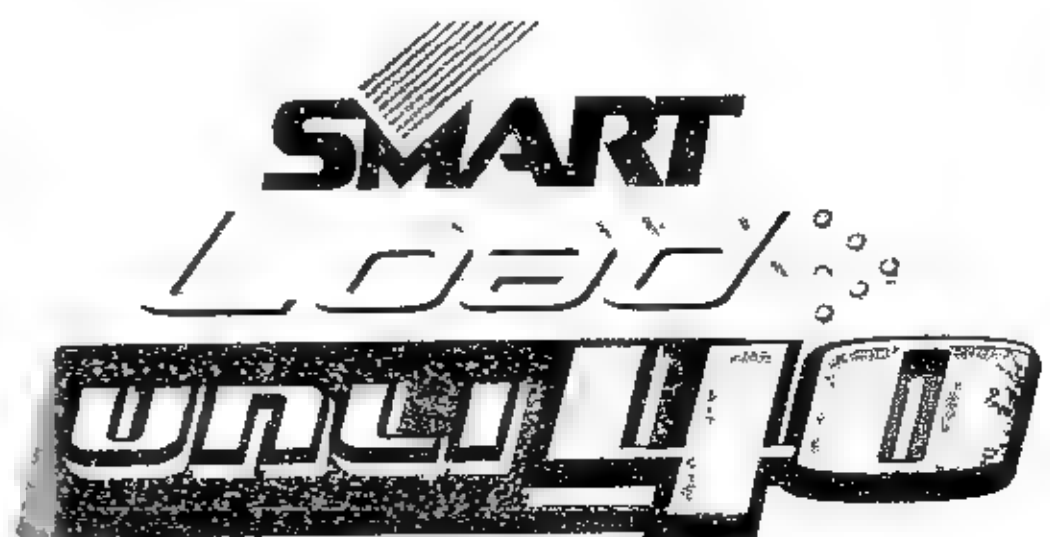
DIGOS CITY—A motorcycle-riding man was killed after he drove into a steel barricade at a police checkpoint in Barangay Colorado here last week. Police said Elzer Carillo, a resident of Da Guzman St. in Toril, Davao City, apparently failed to notice the barricade on Sunday evening and crashed his motorcycle into it. The barricade was put up to slow down vehicles as police authorities here tightened security following the Maguldenao blast. Carillo was brought to the Davao del Sur provincial hospital here but he died before doctors could treat him.

Eldio S. Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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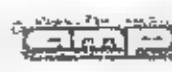
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How to make a Philippine quilt

Sewing as art project encourages community participation and empowerment

By DJ Yap

AN UNFINISHED QUILT MADE OF little squares of cloth and made by several dozen hands is hung on a wall inside the Liangoren Gallery in Cubao, Quezon City.

Written, drawn or sewn onto each strip of textile are words and images answering the question "Malaya ka ba (Are you free)?"

One answer went (in Filipino): "Am I free? I have no cell phone. I'm not obliged to reply to anyone. I'm never forced to answer calls made by others. I don't survive on simple, forwarded messages. I live by my own consciousness. Yes, I am free."

Another said: "I'm not free because I'm always being asked to clean the house and babysit the kids."

Yet another square shows a drawing of a man saying, "I've been free for a long time." But the man is blindfolded.

The meaning of freedom

For the past weeks since Independence Day (June 12), artist Alma Quinto has been inviting small groups of people to sit down in a quiet corner of the gallery and express what freedom means to them.

The guests are told to write, draw or even sew their answers on colorful strips of cloth, which are pieced together to form a quilt.

The project—sponsored by the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. and Nippon Foundation—is aimed not only at uncovering the Filipino psyche through his idea of freedom, but also at creating an art form that involves not just one, but many communities, Quinto said.

In the next few months, the quilt will grow in size and importance as the artist takes it with her to different places across the country, collecting more stories and new perspectives about art and freedom.

Going to the people

"We'll take it to schools, markets, far-flung provinces... and other non-art spaces. The art is going to the people," she said.

By June 12, 2007, the project will have been complete, she said. "We plan to mount it in an exhibition. We're considering Ruzal Park as the venue since it's Independence Day."

Curator Norma Liangoren said the quilt was a type of art that only a community, or a group of communities, can develop.

"Just the mere fact that the project links people... to me, this is already art, of course, while taking into account the form, color and expression," she added.

Community art

Traditional art often engages only an elite segment of society, a small representation of the population, but community art, like Quinto's quilt, "gives voice" to the people, Liangoren said.

"This quilt is like a human chain, but it's more realizable than a physical chain. It is much easier to involve people through art. Talking about freedom (through art) removes inhibitions," she said.

Quinto added: "The project emphasizes audience participation and empowerment. They are asked to use non-art materials like used clothes and garments, and transform them into art."

Her project is actually the other half of a collaborative exhibition with Indonesian artist Nerfita Primadewi, who works with text messages, specifically, collecting "treasured texts" of Filipinos, or the messages they keep in their phones.

Digital media

If Quinto uses low-tech needlework and tapestry, Primadewi employs digital media like videos, computers and cellular phones for her exhibition, in which she presents some of the treasured texts she has collected.

So far, most of those who have participated in Quinto's textile project are friends and peers, as well as members of Cries (Create Responsive Infants By Sharing), a cause-oriented group with whom Quinto has worked for years.

Liangoren said they had also invited housewives, Bible study participants, neighbors and grade school pupils. Almost all were women or girls, and fully half were children, she noted.

"Maybe, it's because needlework and textiles are still considered feminine. But we're trying to involve more people, especially when we begin going to the communities," she said.

Diverse responses

Quinto added that the responses were so diverse, spanning political, economic, religious and familial spectra.

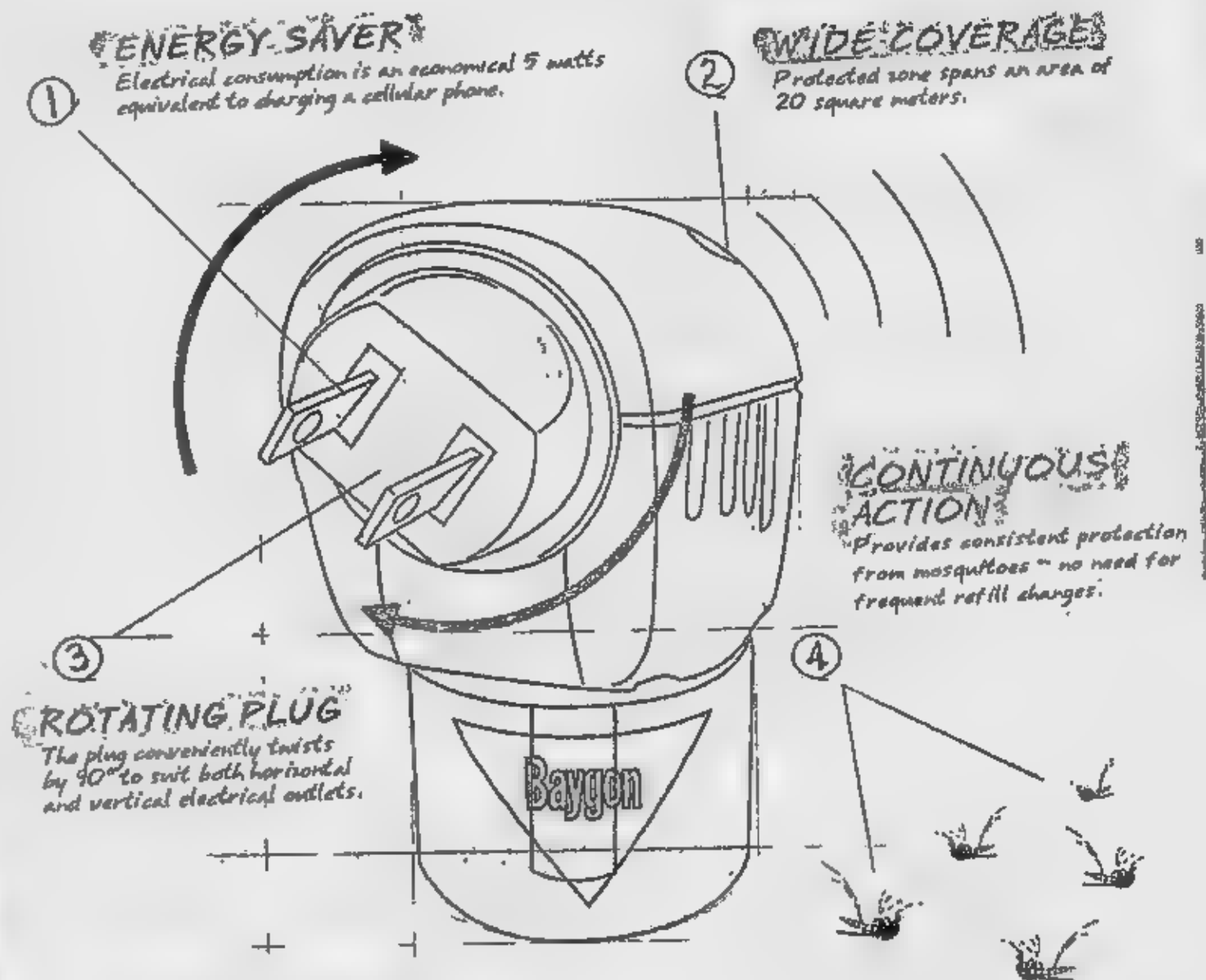
"Some of them would equate freedom with purchasing power, considering the rising prices of goods, while others would look at

HOW TO MAKE A18



FOR the past weeks, people have been trooping to a gallery in Cubao, Quezon City, to sew, write or draw their answers to the question "Are you free?" on square pieces of cloth which are then stitched together to form a quilt. PHOTOS BY NOEL ROTON

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THE PEOPLE behind the making of the quilt: (from left) curator Norma Liangoren of Liangoren Gallery, artists Alma Quinto and Nerfita Primadewi who is from Indonesia.

NPD chief is nurturing dad to cops, adopted kids

By Nancy C. Carvajal

NEWS THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO HELP the children of a slain journalist did not come as a surprise to colleagues and friends of Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the director of the Northern Police District.

In areas where he was previously assigned, there had always been stories about the help he had extended to families of police or military personnel who were killed in the line of duty.

When Bataoil was the police director of Negros Occidental in 1996, he helped raise money for the kin of 11 Army men who were killed in an attempt to rescue 15 people taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The slain soldiers used to be assigned in Negros. Some of them had even gotten married to Negrense women during their tour of duty.

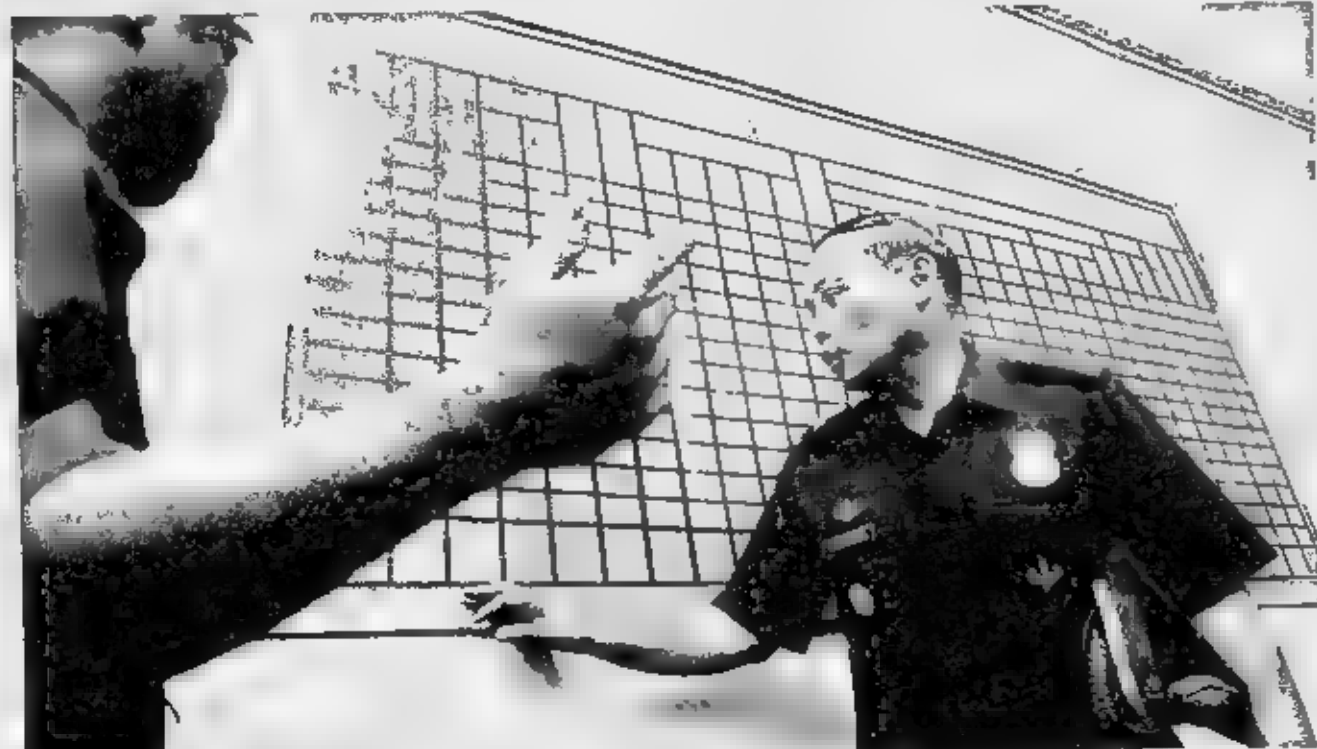
That same year, the province was chosen as the "Best Police Provincial Office of the Year" for being the first unit to put up a children and women's desk in all its police precincts.

Last February, right after he was sworn in as NPD chief, he granted scholarships to 10 policemen who wanted to finish college.

Bataoil's latest scholars, however, are not policemen but the children of reporter Albert



THE "EXTENDED FAMILY" of Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil who is shown with wife Gina, their two girls and the children of slain reporter Albert Orsolino. PHOTOS BY BEN ARANZAS



BATAOIL inspects one of the stations under his command as chief of the Northern Police District.

Orsolino, of the tabloid Saksi, who was killed in an ambush in Caloocan City last May.

"I never expected that help would come from the police, knowing that sometimes media men and policemen do not see eye to eye on certain issues," said Maria Eliza, Orsolino's widow.

Up to college

Earlier this month, Bataoil signed a memorandum with the police chiefs of the areas under his jurisdiction—Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela—in which they promised to shoulder the educational expenses of the slain reporter's children until they finish college.

Orsolino left behind five children: Albert, 12; Almar, 10; Alissa, 7; Alvin, 4 and Aldrich, 2.

Affinity for media men

"My constant association with members of media in the course of my duty has made me closer to reporters," Bataoil said, when asked why he had offered to help the Orsolino family.

Before his appointment to the NPD top

post, Bataoil had served as the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

He added that as the fifth child in a family of nine, his parents had taught him and his siblings to look out for each other and to be helpful to other people.

Orsolino's children, however, won't be the first that Bataoil and his wife Gina have taken under their care.

Adopted children

"I have two adopted daughters—Carmela, 14 and Angela, 9—whom Gina and I love very much," the police official said.

Bataoil and his wife decided to adopt the two girls after years of trying to have children. "With our two girls, we are complete. We are happy to be given the chance to be with them," he said.

When their daughters were younger, according to Bataoil, he always told them that he was grateful to the Lord for giving them to him and Gina.

"But now, they are the ones telling us that they always thank God that He gave us to them," the police official said.

METROBRIEFS

9 rob suspects charged

THE POLICE have arrested 10 suspects since launching two months ago its drive against robbers in three barangays in Muntinlupa City Residents of Barangays Alabang, Cupang and Sucat had earlier complained about the numerous cases of robberies and snatching incidents in their areas. Most of the victims were employees who worked the night shift, City Hall said yesterday. The police reported to Mayor Jaime Fresnedi that nine of the 10 arrested suspects have already been charged with theft and robbery at the city prosecutor's office. The suspects were identified as Romeo Bascones, Alberto Guanco, Cesar Yap, Muhammad Banisil, Jamali Mamanico, Marlon Reyes, Wilfredo Dizon, Jay-ar Fuentes, Carter Kaidiver and Leosi Patapat. Jocelyn R. Uy

Smuggling attempt foiled

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation the other day seized an estimated 1,500 bottles of alcohol concealed in marble pillars inside a container van. NB: Anti-Organized Crime Division chief Oscar Embido said the van was intercepted near Paco Park in Manila. He explained that the operation was conducted after the NBI received information that a syndicate was smuggling alcohol to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where the substance is banned. "The syndicate reportedly conceals the alcohol inside marble columns," he said, adding that their informant also told the NBI that the columns contained 150 bottles each. Embido said that each bottle, worth P1,000, would be sold at P3,500 abroad. "We will be filing charges of technical



smuggling against shipper Lou Edward Enterprises which is based in Siliang, Cavite," Embido added.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Cops impound 2 trucks

AUTHORITIES in Valenzuela City impounded two trucks carrying over P1 million worth of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) on Friday evening. "The drivers were not able to produce documents when asked to show proof that they were authorized by the NFA to have custody of the cargo," said city police chief, Supt. Billy Beltran. He added that the trucks, which were carrying at least 500 sacks of rice each, were apprehended by operatives of the Special Weapons and Tactics team who were on patrol in Mapulang Lupa. The police are also investigating six men—the truck drivers, two helpers and two other men who identified themselves as NFA rice retailers. Nancy C. Carvajal

Burn victim needs help

THE LMA Panes, a 32-year-old woman, was badly burned when someone threw gasoline at her and set her on fire in May 2004. She sustained second and third degree burns on her face and chest and her right arm and mouth became deformed. Since then, Thelma has been having difficulty eating and drinking. According to burn specialist Dr. Ernesto De Ruffa, she must undergo five surgeries and a series of eye operations to ensure that her vision, which was also affected, would go back to normal. Thelma alone cares for her three children after her husband abandoned her in 2002. She only relies on the earnings from her sari-sari store for her family's keep. Those who want to help Thelma can contact Carmen Flor, governor-elect of the Soroptimist International of the Philippines, at 8941754, 8969641 or 8178346. Donations may also be sent to SIP Region Headquarters at 4005 Cardillera St., Barangay Olympia in Makati City.

From page A17

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the history of foreign invasion on our shores," she said.

The real goal behind the art project is not to determine whether or not Filipinos consider themselves to be a free people, but simply to encourage discourse, Quinto pointed out.

No wrong answers

Liongoren said: "There are no right or wrong answers here. Just answer the question according to how you feel."

"If you're a child, you won't need any prompting to answer the question, Are you

free or not? But when you become an adult, you tend to think too much," she told the INQUIRER.

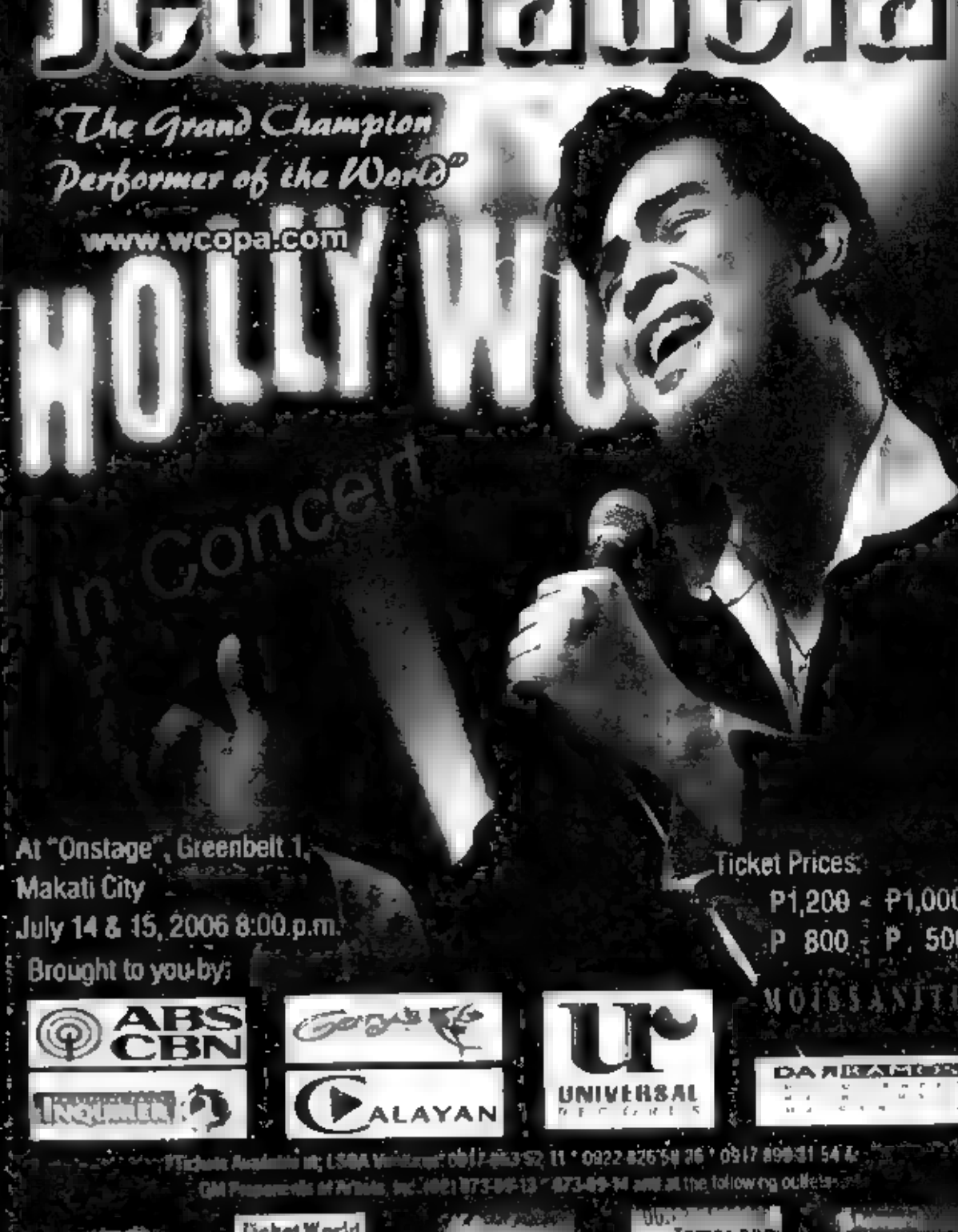
Filipino identity

Once the quilt is completed, an art form that embraces Filipino identity will have been created, and so much will be learned about how Filipinos look at themselves and their country, Quinto said.

"There's so much to explore just from answering how we view freedom. In the end, we'll see the kind of people we are," she stressed.

Editor Gerry Lirio

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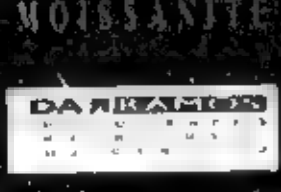
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Pinoys dying to go to Iraq

By Isabel T. Escoda

DESTITUTE CHINESE PAYING "snakehead" syndicates to be smuggled into the US and England, indigent Mexicans trafficked by "coyote" gangs to sneak across the border into the US, impoverished Africans boarding boats to enter Spain clandestinely, desperate Arabs sailing to Australia to seek asylum—it's a worldwide phenomenon.

Adding to the list are Filipinos who, according to latest reports, have been defying a Philippine government ban to work in Iraq. There are conflicting reports about the numbers now working illegally in that war-torn country. Hired by foreign contractors, they work as materials and security guards (some of whom serve practically as mercenaries for the Americans).

Desperate

One thing is certain: the wish to work anywhere in the world, no matter how dangerous, is strong among many desperate Pinoys. And it isn't just men, but women as well.

Not long after truck driver Angelo dela Cruz's brief abduction in Baghdad in 2004, after which President Arroyo caved in to Iraqi threats by pulling out the Filipino contingent (and upsetting her American ally), I was in a crowded underground train in Kowloon. The middle-aged Filipina standing beside me was whining in Cebuano into her cellphone about her abusive employer. When she hung up I asked her "Dugay ka na ba dinhi?" (Have you been here long?). Turning to me in surprise, she said she'd been in the territory for five years. I asked what the trouble was with her employer and she looked disgruntled as she said something racist about the Chinese—remarks best left unreported.

Liling Angelo

"I'll just go home and apply for a job in Iraq," she said seriously. So I asked if she wouldn't worry about getting abducted or killed, to which she replied, "Sagdiang!" (Never mind), adding, "If that happens, at least my children would have a good life. Look at Angelo dela Cruz now—he got a hero's welcome, cash gifts and an assured education for his children. The government only pays attention if something really bad happens to you."

Her tone of bitterness was unmistakable, and before I could pursue the conversation, she had to get off the train.

Recently, I got another earful about the urge to go to Iraq. Turning in to one of the Pinoy radio programs which air weekly in Hongkong, I heard a sanctimonious man declaiming long-windedly on hope and faith and the Almighty, punctuating his oration with "Pursue ang Diyos!" (Praise the Lord). Women's voices in the background piously chimed in with "Hallelujah!" and "Amen!" It turned out to be "Brother Mike" Velarde of El Shaddai fame. After the sermon, he invited his audience to make their requests.

One woman, who said she was from Laoag, asked for prayers so she could get a visa at the US Embassy to apply for a job in Iraq. She said she'd heard of jobs for *labanderas* and waitresses at the US bases. At which Brother Mike gave a smarmy chuck-

le and asked if she wasn't scared of getting bombed. She giggled, saying she was sure his prayers would protect her if she had the "suerte" (luck) to go.

Brother Mike then informed his audience he had recently gone to the embassy himself to apply for US visas for his grandkids. "After I got them, everyone else who applied after me had their visa applications granted. So maybe I should go there everyday to help all those applicants!"

Other women had their own special requests—one said she didn't know what to do about her tomboy daughter who had scandalized their neighborhood by living openly with a woman. Brother Mike advised her to be patient and pray because, he assured her unctuously, the daughter would soon realize the error of her ways. Molified by his words, she thanked him profusely.

Mike Velarde's advice

Then a woman from Batangas who said she was strapped for cash, offered her land, all 25 hectares planted to coconut and lanzones trees. Brother Mike advised her to leave her telephone number, joshing that if she made a sale, he wanted a 20 percent commission.

After the request portion, the El Shaddai song was played. A lively tune with a strong Latin beat, some of the lyrics went: "El Shaddai! El Shaddai! Mahirap, mayaman, pantay-pantay! (poor, rich, all equal) Hallelujah!"

The program, taped in Manila, has been airing weekly in the territory for the past two years, according to the Filipino station director of Hongkong's Metro Radio. It's aimed mainly at the many El Shaddai members in the territory. The other sect, Jesus is Lord (known as JIL by its members), claims to have a larger following. Apparently they too had wanted to have their own radio program; but after their head, "Brother Eddie" Villanueva, joined the presidential race two years ago, the idea for a JIL radio program somehow was dropped.

Fatalism

Hongkong also has two major Pinoy newspapers. One recently carried an ad for "Holy Olive Oil from Jerusalem" which urged "Bring your prayer request in the hands of men of God who will pray strong on your behalf!" (sic) The oil purportedly heals "pain, depression and nightmares," and also helps with "unstable relationships, low self-esteem, abuse, inability to function, never-ending debts, blocked love life, hatred & being hated and wanting to die."

As in the home country where religion plays a big part among the disenfranchised masses, it becomes a stronger force abroad for the migrant workers who feel alienated and oppressed. Any form of solace amid all the hardship makes life more bearable.

The fatalism that produces the urge to gamble with one's life in such hell-holes as Iraq typifies the Filipino trait of self sacrifice. This is particularly true among the women, thousands of whom have left home to work in often appalling conditions so as to support their families. It's such a familiar story, it has become a sad cliché.



GALSIM (right) fights homesickness by going out with fellow Filipinos in the desert separating Dubai and Oman.

CONTINUED PHOTO

What a travel consultant in Dubai misses in Manila

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TRAVEL CONSULTANT DENY Lou Galsim, 23, spent her first weekend in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at home. That freaked her out.

For someone who used to hang out with friends and co-workers almost every night in party places in Manila, that day, though spent in a posh village outside Dubai's city center, she knew she would miss home.

She would miss the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, where she met her grade school classmates every other week, reminiscing over a cup of coffee or tea.

She would miss Makau City's restaurants where she would chat with co-workers over bottles of San Mig Lite until dawn.

Dubai has bars and restaurants, of course.

But, unlike her rented house in Cubao, which was within walking distance of the Araneta Center, the village where she now lives with four other Filipinos is about an hour away from Deira, the city center, about the time it takes from Buacan to Makati.

No beer here

She misses the chats while drinking beer. In Dubai, alcoholic drinks are not easy to get. Supermarkets and convenience stores do not sell beer and wine.

"Buyers need a license to purchase from a liquor store. And getting a license is a very tedious process," Galsim says, as she shares her new experi-

ences through regular e-mail in an easy mix of English and Filipino.

Her parents need not worry, she does not plan to get one.

Besides, liquor is very costly in Dubai. A pitcher of beer in a restaurant is about 75 Dirhams or P1,000.

Galsim, a native of Tayug, Pangasinan, has been working for a travel agency in Dubai for about two months.

She worked for a hotel after finishing a tourism course at the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2003. After four months, she transferred to a travel agency, where she worked for more than two years.

Then a former boss invited her to apply for a job in Dubai and was accepted after only 15 days of waiting.

"I really thought hard about this. I realized that this opportunity was once in a lifetime. So I grabbed it," she says.

Conservative country

She was scared at first about moving to a country that seemed "strict and conservative." She heard of a Filipino woman who had a miscarriage and was sent to jail after authorities found out she was unmarried.

But she found out, "This is a very open city, a melting pot of various races. Girls here wear spaghetti-strapped blouses, rubies, halters, minis. Some even don't wear bras."

She misses her favorite soap operas, though, no matter how cheesy their plots were. Their television set does not have ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel or GMA's Pinoy TV.

She also misses her old routine (house-work-gymnastic-house)

which she has traded for a shorter, though more boring, one (house-work-house).

To ease her boredom, she goes to a mall occasionally or just stays home for karaoke singing with her friends (great thing one of them brought his Magic Sing microphone).

But still a party girl at heart, she went to a bar recently where, instead of the yuppies and foreigners of Greenbelt, she saw Filipino overseas workers. The waiters and cooks were also all Filipinos.

Seeing Sam

In the bar, she saw TV personality Sam Milby of the Pinoy Big Brother fame, a show she also misses very much.

"This is funny. I had to be in Dubai to finally meet him in person," she said in her most recent e-mail.

But restaurant food in Dubai is expensive. Fortunately, one of her friends is a good cook so Galsim and her friends still get to enjoy *sinigang*, *munggo* and beef steak in their villa.

"There are movie houses in some malls but most films are shown here later than in other countries. Ticket prices are also steep. I think US \$5 Dirhams each (P770)," she says.

"People here are more into beaches, I guess, especially on Thursday evenings, because the rest day here is Friday," she adds.

But she would rather stay in their air-conditioned three-bedroom house provided by the company. The temperature outside rises to about 40-45 degrees Celsius at noon.

"The water is also very hot. You don't need a heater here; you need a cooler," she says.

Galsim, as she wrote in her high school year book, originally wanted to be an engineer. She changed her plan after failing in a Mathematics subject in UP.

She did not dream of working abroad. "I used to dream of traveling abroad, but never of working in a foreign country," she says.

Keeping Friendster

One thing she does not miss is her old salary. She now gets three times her old rate. And yes, she says, that is tax-free.

"I realize that at my age and with my knowledge, I would not earn this much in Manila. Here, I also get to learn more about different cultures," Galsim says. "I am having fun," she adds.

Her workload is also much lighter. She is able to respond to e-mail from friends in less than an hour and also keeps her Friendster account updated.

"What I like here is I get to decide for myself, both in my personal life and in my work. We even call our bosses by their first names," she says.

Though she misses loved ones and friends, she says she is closer to realizing her dreams.

"Perhaps if we have a better economy, a more stable political system, and more jobs with good pay, maybe I would have stayed," she says.

So, in the meantime, she and her friends will just have to endure missing home, San Jose, Makati, Araneta and Greenbelt.

After Abu Dhabi, disappointed couple now off to US

By Trina A. Lagura
Contributor

AMOR FERNANDEZ LEFT SCHOOL for economic reasons at 21 to try his luck in Abu Dhabi.

The now 46-year-old former overseas worker says his 16-year stay in the capital of the United Arab Emirates was relatively easy.

Working for the city's Water and Electricity Department (ADWED) as a contract analyst, he met the woman of his dreams, Marilyn, a nurse. They lived in a flat provided by the government, had a car and ran a modest but successful business.

Homesickness was never a problem and he did not have to suffer maltreatment because he fought back. As for discrimination, he says, "It (discrimination) happens not only to us (Filipinos)."

Aside from the heat, the Fernandezes' main concern was finding a nanny for the children when they went to work.

The first three of the Fernandezes' four children—Andre John, 18, Angela Mae, 16, and Agatha Mane, 10—were born there. They had the fourth, Matt Aries, 8, when they came home.

Government employee

Fernandez went to UAE in 1981, before he could finish his mechanical engineering course at Batangas Univer-



FERNANDEZ: Home again, gone tomorrow.

JESS NUSON

ty. He was then helping in the construction business of his family.

Eager to be independent, he grabbed the opportunity to work abroad, earning more than \$200 a month for taking charge of the food and beverage department of a posh hotel owned by Sheikh Suroor bin Mohammed Al Nahyan.

Just months after his arrival, Al Nahyan handpicked him and five other people to join the sheikh's personal staff. He was one of two Filipinos chosen.

"I was then the first Filipino to work in the Abu Dhabi government. Now there are around 200 Filipinos," he says.

He says government employees in

Abu Dhabi are taken care of and properly compensated. After the first three years of service of an employee, he will be entitled to one year bonus and other benefits.

In 1988, with a \$25,000 capital, he and his Filipino partner, a friend of his wife's, set up a barber salon. They had to get an Arab partner as the law required, Fernandez says.

Patriot

Despite his 16 years abroad, Fernandez's love for his country did not wane. In his home in Abu Dhabi, he and Marilyn spoke to the children in Filipino. He stressed to them they were still Filipinos at heart even if they were away from the country.

A former student activist who participated in street protests against the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, Fernandez also got involved with a group in Abu Dhabi helping other Filipinos. He says the Filipino Cultural, Health and Sports Club (FCHS) does not only organize get-togethers but also assists "homeless, orphaned, widowed, aged and distressed Filipinos."

Home again

In 1997, the Fernandezes decided to come home, encouraged by the booming economy under President Fidel V. Ramos.

Except for the traffic, he says, it was not hard for them to adjust.

Though he missed the life of luxury in Abu Dhabi, he says there is no place like home.

The Fernandezes bought in 2000 a half-hectare land in Rosario, Batangas to start a piggery. Though neither of them is from Batangas, Fernandez says the place is ideal for such a venture. He trained for one week in Lipa to prepare for his new venture.

But now they have decided to migrate to the United States.

Disappointed

He says they came back full of hope that life would be better here, but have become disillusioned.

"I am very, very disappointed with our government. Life here is uncertain and without direction ... My wife and I (may be) fine, but how about our children?" he asks.

He complains about corruption and how the poor are getting poorer. He laments that the administration has no program and does not support returning Filipinos who "have money but don't know where to put it."

But despite his disappointments, Fernandez says he still plans to return to the country maybe five to 10 years from now, hoping the country will be better then. He also hopes to return every six months for a vacation.

He says he is not giving up their farm and houses, as they will provide them income when they come home.

Guess who ...

From page A19

"The Mansion House was unique as the only purpose built home of the Lord Mayor of the City of London," the embassy said.

Taguig became a favorite of Lord Mayors, the embassy added.

In 1998, Taguig was granted the distinct honor of becoming a Freeman of the City of London by act of the Lord Mayor and the Court of Common Council.

The House ...

From page A19

her hometown, Talon-Talon, Zamboanga, and marry her sweetheart Barry, who fronts a local band.

"With the money that I can save abroad, I am hoping I can stay here permanently when I return and finally start a rice retailing business. Going abroad is the only chance I have of pursuing my dreams of a better life," says Jamaica.

Normuda also says this next trip may be her last. She left in 2000 to work in Kuwait. In 2003, she went to Dubai.

Grim and bear it

"I really have to work abroad to provide for my family. Nang, my husband, is just a factory worker and we can't rely only on

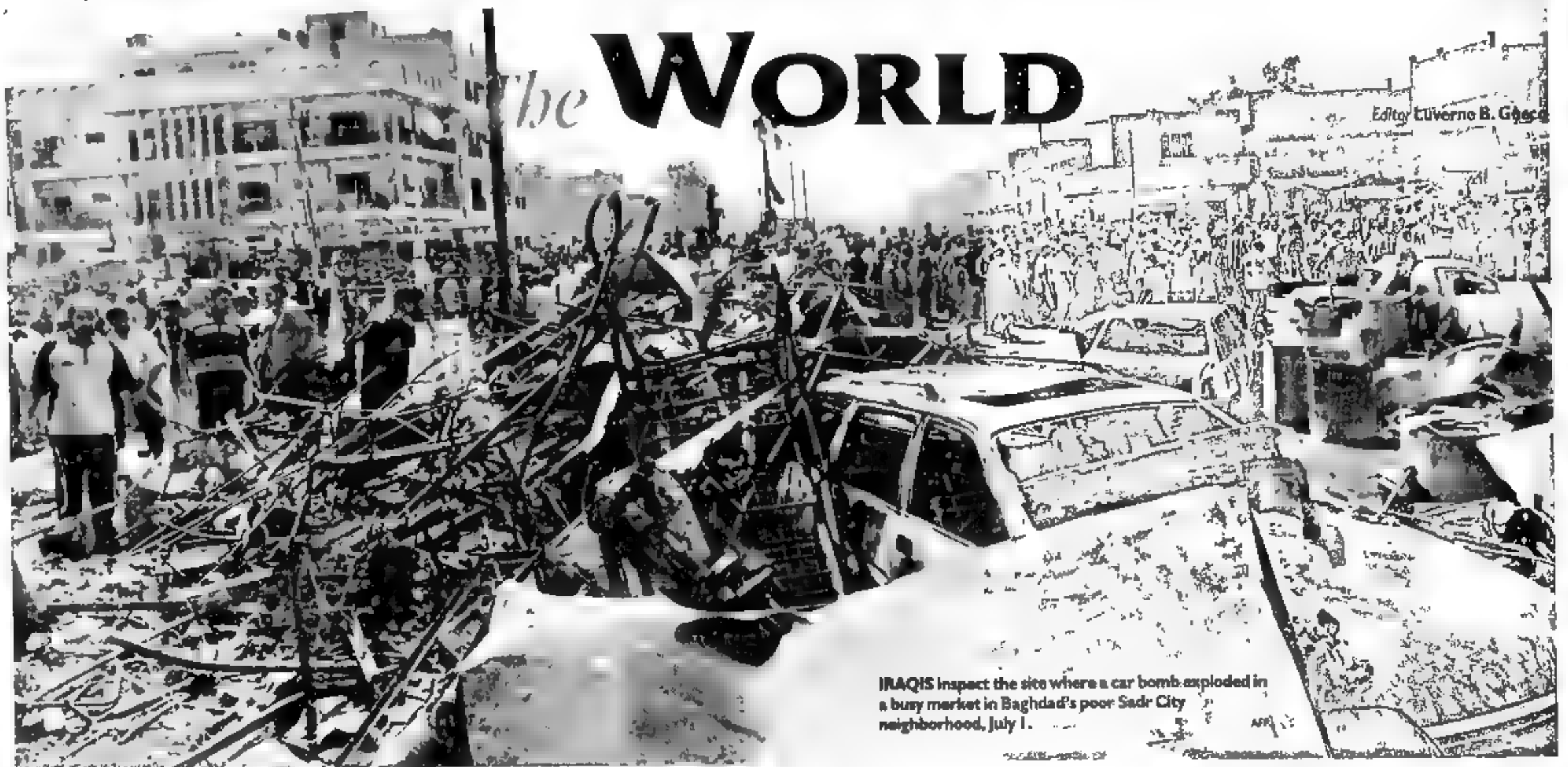
Her job is difficult and involves long hours, but Taguig said: "After working for some time, it becomes a pleasure; it becomes a passion to serve. I love coming to the Mansion House because the people are very nice."

While considering herself as a loyal subject of the Queen, Taguig still makes time for her fellow Filipinos visiting England by organizing tours for them.

his meager salary to support our two children," Normuda says.

When asked what it felt to leave her family behind, Normuda briefly looked up to the sky as if she was trying to remember and answers, "This is already my third trip and my Jason and Julika (her children, 10 and 8, respectively) are beginning to understand. It was really hard for them the first time but they are good and resilient kids. As for me, I just have to grin and bear it. This won't last forever. This is going to be my last contract," she says.

When she finishes this contract, Normuda plans to stay home with her family and open a small store in her town. With reports from Luigi B. Coliflores



IRAQIS inspect the site where a car bomb exploded in a busy market in Baghdad's poor Sadr City neighborhood, July 1.

A DAY AFTER BIN LADEN WARNING

Baghdad market car bombing kills 60

BAGHDAD—AT LEAST 60 PEOPLE WERE KILLED and 76 wounded Saturday when a car bomb struck the Baghdad Shiite district of Sadr City, ripping through a massive security crackdown in the Iraqi capital.

A Sunni woman MP was also kidnapped in north Baghdad along with eight of her bodyguards, a day after al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden vowed the war would go on despite a peace plan launched by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

The vast Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, a stronghold of militiamen loyal to Shiite radical leader

Muqtada Sadr, has been a repeated target for Sunni Arab insurgents amid mounting sectarian violence.

The massive car bomb went off as a police patrol passed through the district's Al-Ula market, which was packed with morning shoppers, an interior ministry official said.

Witnesses said the bomb was concealed in a pick up truck loaded with vegetables and that the

driver blew himself up.

The force of the blast torched nearby market stalls and around 20 vehicles, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Fearful residents were seen desperately searching through the mangled wreckage for missing loved ones.

In a separate roadside bombing in southeast Baghdad, another three people were killed, officials said. Four bodies were also found around the city.

Jawad Najeh Awad al-Mashhadani, an MP for the National Concord Front, the largest Sunni Arab bloc in the Iraqi parliament, was seized in north Baghdad as she

returned to the capital from the restive province of Diyala to the northeast, a political source said.

Her abduction came after the Shiite prime minister launched a national reconciliation plan aimed at wooing members of the disenfranchised former elite away from the protracted insurgency and back into the political process.

The violence was a reminder of the precarious security situation in the capital despite a massive security clampdown that has seen tens of thousands of US and government troops patrolling the streets for the past few weeks.

Government figures for June recorded at least 1,009 Iraqi dead

in insurgent attacks, only slightly down on the 1,055 killed around Iraq in May.

The prime minister's reconciliation plan includes proposals for an amnesty for at least some suspected rebels in a bid to stem the insurgency and mounting sectarian violence, and Maliki was due to begin a Gulf tour in oil-rich Saudi Arabia later Saturday to seek regional support for the proposals.

But in a new audio-tape released Friday, the al-Qaida leader vowed that the militant network's war in Iraq would go on despite the death in a US air raid last month of its Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

US soldiers linked to Iraq rape-murder

BELH IRAQ—INVESTIGATORS believe the US soldiers suspected of raping an Iraqi woman, then killing her and members of her family plotted the attack for nearly a week, a US military official said Saturday.

The official, who is close to the investigation, said that flammable liquid was used to burn the woman's body in a cover-up attempt, although it was not clear if it was gasoline or lighter fluid.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said it appeared the attack was "totally premeditated" and that the soldiers "studied them for about a week."

According to the official, the Sunni Arab family had just moved into a new home in the insurgent-riddled area around Mahmudiya, south of Baghdad. The Americans entered the home, separated three males from the woman, then raped her and set fire to her body, the official said. The three males were also slain.

US officials said they knew of the deaths but thought the victims died due to sectarian violence. But Mahmudiya police Capt. Ihsan Abdul-Rahman said Iraqi officials received a report March 13 alleging that American soldiers had killed the family. The incident occurred in the Khair Abayad area, about 9 km north of Mahmudiya, he said.

There were some discrepancies over how many soldiers were being investigated. The US official said it was at least four. Two other US officials said Friday that five were under investigation but one already had been discharged for unspecified charges unrelated to the killings and was believed to be in the United States.

In Baghdad, the US military issued a terse statement Friday, saying only that Maj. Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, ordered a criminal investigation into the alleged slaying of a family of four in Mahmudiya, 30 km south of Baghdad.

Ex-Mexico president charged in '68 massacre

MEXICO CITY—JUST TWO DAYS before a tight national election, a judge has ordered the arrest of former President Luis Echeverria on genocide charges in connection with his role during the massacre of student protesters here in 1968, overturning a lower court ruling.

The arrest of Echeverria, who is 84 and in poor health, came after two failed attempts by a special prosecutor to charge him with the deaths and disappearances of dozens of students and leftist dissidents in the late 1960s and early 1970s, a period known here as the dirty war.

The ruling was a major victory for President Vicente Fox, who staked much of his political legacy on holding government officials legally responsible for past atrocities rather than forming a truth commission that had no legal teeth.

Fox's inability thus far to obtain any convictions in connection with the massacres has been widely seen as a major failure. So the arrest of Echeverria is likely to boost the chances of Felipe Calderon, the presidential candidate of Fox's National Action Party, at the polls on Sunday.

But the special prosecutor, Ignacio Carrillo Prieto, denied that the judge's decision had anything to do with politics. The timing was a coincidence, he said.

Having been hospitalized in recent months with lung ailments, Echeverria was placed under house arrest at his residence in the San Jeronimo neighborhood in the south of the capital while the court decides his guilt or innocence. Federal agents were dispatched to watch him, Carrillo Prieto said.

Echeverria was president from 1970 to 1976 at the height of Mexico's crackdown on leftists, in

which more than 500 dissidents disappeared.

Before that he was the interior minister in charge of national security, when troops opened fire at a student rally in Mexico City on Oct. 2, 1968, just before the Olympics opened here. The government has always claimed that only 30 people died in that massacre at the Tlatelolco housing complex, but witnesses and human rights advocates say as many as 300 were actually killed.

Echeverria has always denied any responsibility for the massacre.



ECHEVERRIA in a 1994 photo. AP

Only 30-40 'real' cases seen in Gitmo

WASHINGTON—THE Guantanamo camp may have only 30 to 40 "real" cases and the US detention center should be shut down by 2007, the president of the Belgian Senate, who headed a European inspection team there, said Friday.

Presenting her findings in Washington on behalf of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Anne-Marie Lizé recommended the shutting down of the US "war on terror" detention center by end of 2007 because the actual number of dangerous detainees was low.

"We have looked at all the categories of detainees: those who are supposed to be transferred, those who are valuable for procedure," Lizé told reporters.

"The number of those, when you discuss it with the people in this jail, could move from 70 to a little more than 100 but not more. And in some cases, people say we could have only 30 to 40 real valuable cases," she said.

Her report says Guantanamo now has some 460 detainees.

The Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling Thursday against the US use of military tribunals for Guantanamo Bay detainees, but the verdict did not touch the detention center's future.

Vatican official seeks excommunication for researchers using human embryos

ROME—SCIENTISTS WHO engage in stem cell research using human embryos should be subject to excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church, according to a senior Vatican official.

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, who heads the group that proposes family-related policy for the Church, said in an interview with the Catholic weekly *Famiglia Cristiana* published Thursday that stem cell researchers should be punished in the same way as women who have abortions and doctors who perform them.

"Destroying an embryo is equivalent to abortion," said the cardinal. "Excommunication is

valid for the women, the doctors and researchers who destroy embryos."

It was unclear if the Pope supported the position, and the Vatican did not return calls for comment. But such blunt remarks from a powerful cardinal just a week before the Church convenes a meeting to discuss the topic could foreshadow a hardening of Vatican policy on the issue, experts said.

On Saturday, Trujillo will open the Church's fifth World Meeting of Families in Valencia, Spain, and Pope Benedict XVI will attend July 9, the closing day. As head of the Pontifical Council for the Family, it will be up to Trujillo

to propose new Church policies, though adopting any such measure could require a long and complicated process.

The Church has long opposed embryonic stem cell research, and has campaigned against any medical procedure or research technique that harms human embryos or fetuses.

But the threat of individual excommunication—the most serious punishment meted out by the Church—was previously directed at women and medical personnel who participated in abortions. Trujillo's stand would broaden the use of that sanction to biomedical researchers who use embryos.

UN: Globalization has failed to bridge gap

GENEVA—THE UNITED NATIONS said in a report on Friday that globalization has failed to narrow the glaring inequalities between rich and poor nations and called for developing countries to be given more space to build up their national economies.

The UN's "2006 World Economic and Social Survey" said that—once China and India were excluded—from the calculation—inequalities between countries around the world had grown sharply in recent decades. Fast-

growing China and India account between them for one third of the world's population.

The report said this development was "at odds with the conventional economic wisdom regarding how income differentials among countries change over time in a more integrated world economy."

Only a small number of nations had been able to narrow the chasm that separated them from wealthy economies despite a belief in the 1980s and 1990s that

"giving more space to the global market would lead to a closing of the income gap," it added.

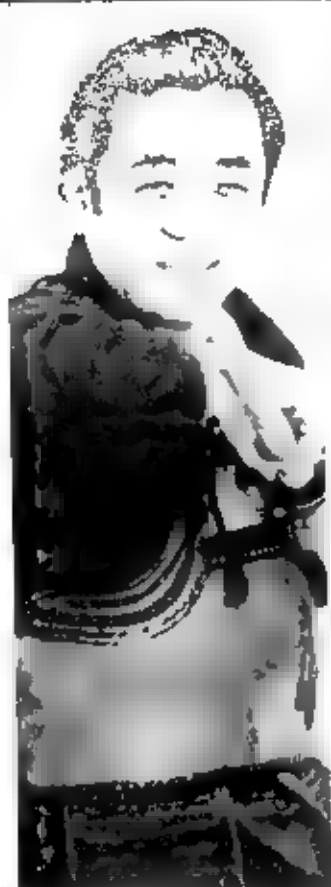
"This did not happen, despite the fact that countries across the globe had opened up their trade and financial systems to the global market," observed the report by the UN's department of economic and social affairs.

It argued that poorer countries needed to be given more opportunity to diversify their commodity-based economies to make

them less vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices and shocks in international financial markets.

They should be able to follow the example set by dynamic Asian economies by shifting towards high-tech industrial production and services, it argued.

"Success in exports is basically associated with what you export, not how much you export," UN Under Secretary General Jose Antonio Ocampo told journalists in Geneva.



HASHIMOTO; 68
Former Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at a kendo demonstration in this Sept. 20, 1998 photo. Hashimoto died July 1 at a Tokyo hospital. He was 68. Hashimoto had been in critical condition after suffering abdominal pain and undergoing surgery in early June.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Federer's road to final opens up /A27

Sunday SPORTS

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Bata banners
RP team in Las Vegas 8-Ball /A25



Stiff ticket prices turn off fans

By Gil Cabacungan

TICKET PRICES OUT OF REACH of the common Filipinos have deterred rabid fans of boxer Manny Pacquiao from trooping in droves to the 18,000-seater Araneta Coliseum when he fights Mexican Oscar Larios today.

Entertainment giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. was mum on reports that the highly touted Pacquiao-Larios fight it had been promoting heavily in the past few months would be far from the sell-out the station's bigwigs had envisioned shortly after the Filipino boxing idol's blockbuster fight versus Eric Morales six months ago.

That Las Vegas fight was sold out and ABS-CBN's telecast of the fight was the most watched in local television history.

At press time yesterday, only the ringside seats (going for P47,000 each) and the bleachers or general admission (P528 each) were close to being sold out with still plenty of seats in the patron (P31,680), lower box (P31,120), and upper box (P7,920 for level "A" and P2,640 for level "B") sections still being peddled by Ticketnet.

ABS-CBN had put on sale 17,000 tickets with the rest reserved for VIPs and corporate sponsors.

"Sales have been so-so. Normally, this kind of event would have sold out a few weeks ago," said one Ticketnet employee, who noted that the ringside seats were the most expensive as far as she could remember.

The Ticketnet employee also said they expect scalpers to make a killing yesterday as some tickets were being offered at less than half their face value.

ABS-CBN, which was solely responsible for the pricing of the tickets, had based the prices on the sales of the World Wrestling Entertainment, which packed the historic coliseum to the rafters with Filipinos crazy about the professional wrestlers.

Apparently, Filipinos found the price too stiff (the bleachers' ticket is nearly twice the minimum wage).

In an e-mail response to the INQUIRER, ABS-CBN vice president for corporate affairs and public relations Maloh K. Espinos said: "We are on track as far as the revenue streams for Mano A Mano are concerned. The advertising revenues are par for the course. There is no clear picture yet of the pay-per-view revenues, but indications are good. The pay-per-view on the Internet broadband is also quite encouraging. We also expect to earn from regional placements and ticket sales at Araneta Coliseum."

Abap head sees Larios going down in 5 rounds

By Norman Bordadora

PEOPLE'S CHAMP MANNY PACQUIAO will knock out Oscar Larios in less than five rounds.

"He will win inside five rounds," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez of Pacquiao's chances against the Mexican pugilist in their 12-round fight at the Araneta Coliseum today.



LOPEZ

Speaking during the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum in Quezon City, Lopez said Larios will also have to deal with the huge pro-Pacquiao crowd and the fact that he had to gain eight pounds to move up to Pacquiao's super featherweight division.

Larios, who last fought as a super bantamweight (122 lbs), came in at 129 at yesterday's weigh-in.

Lopez noted that Larios has a "glass jaw" and has just recovered from a third round knockout at the hands of fellow Mexican Israel Vasquez in December 2005.

Lopez said oddsmakers in Las Vegas have installed Pacquiao an 8-1 favorite to beat the Mexican boxer. *Norman Bordadora*

Malacanang is expecting nothing less than a victory from Pacquiao for the alternative will be utter humiliation, personally and financially, for the millionaire boxer.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it would be "the height of embarrassment" if Pacquiao, a 7-1 favorite in the 12-round match, would lose in his home country.

"I think he has no choice but to win if he

wants to continue to be the idol of the people. It will also be a shame if he loses considering that his brother, Bobby Pacquiao, just won," said Ermita in a briefing with reporters.

(Bobby Pacquiao won by TKO in the fourth round over American Kevin Kelley in his defense of the WBC Continental Americas super featherweight title at the Madison Square Garden in New York last June 11.)

Ermita said there was more pressure on Pacquiao to perform well than his previous bouts because "he is widely considered as a symbol of the Filipino people."

Ermita, who claimed to have dabbled in boxing in his youth, said that if Pacquiao's coach, Freddie Roach, predicted that Larios would be knocked out in six rounds, "he should do it in three."



PACQUIAO

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Witness badminton at its best



NBC semis: Spring Oil tackles Pagadian July 6

SPRING COOKING OIL-PARANAQUE props up its bid for the NBC title which has eluded it for three years now when it meets expansion team Pagadian in a best-of-three semifinal series in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship on July 6 at the Tagaytay International Convention Center.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Vice Mayor Ayo Yilana think this is the best time to strike, but they must first hurdle the tough Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co.

Fresh from winning the 4th Bahrain-Philippines Goodwill Games, Spring-Paranaque hopes to start big behind veterans Martin Ortiguera, Larry Rodriguez,

Danny Capobres, Marvin Yambao, Mar Reyes and playmaker Aldrin Morante.

"The boys are hungry to win (an NBC) title," said Spring-Paranaque coach Efren "Yong" Garcia.

The Cooking Oil Masters swept Pangasinan, 2-0, in their first playoff outing in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulphur Lanes, Nature's Spring, Mineral Water,

Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Moken and Prime Channel.

But Pagadian could prove tough to handle. Coached by Segundo "Bong" de la Cruz who steered PEI-Cavite to a second-place finish last year, the Explorers are hampered by ex-pros Bong Marata, Peter Naron and Michael Orquillas and PBL veteran Lou Gumbato.

"I have a high respect for Spring's players," said Dela Cruz. "But my team has all the tools to overcome them. I expect a total war in this series," said Dela Cruz.

The second and third game, if necessary, will be played in Pagadian City.

Reigning titlist O Zamis Cotta and Batang Tagaytay are clashing in the other semifinal series, also on July 6, in Tagaytay City.

Coach E gets rolling in 3 sites July 25



ALTAMIRANO

COACH E BASKETBALL school opens the new school year with its new venue in San Bada-Alabang offering a full 16-session schedule starting July 25.

Classes at The Zone in Makati and club-fifty are set on July 26 and July 28, respectively.

The International Basketball Association (IBA) was impressed by the turnout of students from areas in the South last May that it decided to make San Bada Alabang a regular Coach E satellite while sessions will be offered soon in Xavier School in San Juan. For inquiries, call 631-1195 (Mylene), from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or visit iba.phil@yahoo.com and www.ibaphil.net.

IBA president Xavy Nunag also announced that PBA champion coach Eric Altamirano will hold a coaching clinic at the San Bada Alabang on July 15. Fee is P100.

Ten successful students from the coaching clinic will be invited to join the teaching staff of the Coach Basketball School backed by Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Burlington, Accel and Brothers Burger.

San Bada-Alabang classes are set every Tuesday (5:30-7:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m.-noon). Regular classes in club-fifty are Fridays (5-7 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m. to noon) while those at The Zone are Wednesdays (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (10 a.m. to noon).

Pacman fight live via 3G

SMART SUBSCRIBERS USING 3G HANDSETS may watch the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios fight for the World Boxing Council International Super Featherweight today through Smart 3G's Live TV in real time.

"While most people watch the Pacquiao-Larios fight via their television sets, Smart is making this live mobile broadcast available as an added service to our subscribers through Smart 3G," said Manny Perez, marketing head for usage, Smart Communications, Inc.. "This will come in handy for people who will be on the go this Sunday."

For the Pacquiao-Larios fight, subscribers can watch for an affordable streaming fee of P15 per 30 minute plus P20 daily access charge to the television network.

"What's amazing is what you will see on television will be the same telecast as what you will see on your cell phones. It will be real time, too," Perez added.

To access the live mobile broadcast of the Pacquiao-Larios fight, Smart subscribers must set to 3G mode. Then, go to the phone Menu, choose the Web, and go to the Smart 3G WAP site. After connecting to the server and agreeing on the terms, just click on Mobile TV then click on the Mano A Mano Live link.

For a short cut, subscribers can also access the Mano A Mano link via texting, just text in MANOLIVE and send to 2366. You will receive a text message containing the URL or link to the Mano A Mano Live streaming feed. Just click on this link to get connected.

Smart 3G's Live TV is available to all Smart subscribers with 3G handsets and 3G activated SIMs. With 1000 3G base stations nationwide, Smart offers the widest third generation network coverage in the country.



MICK Pennisi of Red Bull tries to stop Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer.

Game 7 seals PBA semifinal tussles today

By June Navarro

STATISTICS, HISTORY AND mental edge no longer matter. Now it's just pure heart and desire.

The semifinals of the PBA Philippine Cup ends with this kind of atmosphere as four teams fight for a Finals seat in a deciding Game 7 today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Alaska and Purefoods tangle in the 4:10 p.m. curtain-raiser before San Miguel Beer takes on Red Bull at 6:35 in do-or-die matches that will decide who qualifies for the best-of-seven championship showdown.

"The only significant thing (after tying the series) was Eugene Tejada's number (33)," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after the Giants forced the decider with a 99-96 win in Game 6 Friday.

"It's just three and three. Now, we're going for four and three."

Gregorio and the Giants hope to turn Tejada's misfortune into a driving force to pull off another come-from-behind victory over the Aces.

Tejada has been cheering his teammates from his hospital bed since a nasty fall against Red Bull in the classification phase rendered him immobile from the neck down.

Kerby Raymundo and James Yap are again expected to deliver the way they did in Game 6. Expectations are also high that Noy Castillo, Marc Pingris, Roger Yap and Rey Evangelista would also shine.

"I like the character of this team. It's

GAMES TODAY

(Cuneta Astrodome)

4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

6:35 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Red Bull

Game 1-Alaska d. Purefoods, 94-92; Red Bull d. San Miguel, 89-78; Game 2-Alaska d. Purefoods, 86-77; San Miguel d. Red Bull, 114-98; Game 3-Purefoods d. Alaska, 82-79; Red Bull d. San Miguel, 99-95; Game 4-Alaska d. Purefoods, 81-77; San Miguel d. Red Bull, 106-82; Game 5-Purefoods d. Alaska, 85-74; Red Bull d. San Miguel, 107-101; Game 6-Purefoods d. Alaska, 98-95; San Miguel d. Red Bull, 116-101.

nice to have players who have the desire to win even when their backs are against the wall," said Gregorio.

The Aces, on the other hand, try to bounce back from the ignominy of squandering an 11-point lead in the closing minutes of Game 6.

Cone and his Aces are also in danger of absorbing another embarrassing loss from the Giants, who captured the 2002 Governors Cup title after Alaska took a 2-0 lead early in the title series.

Going by best-of-seven records, Red Bull is heavily favored over San Miguel.

The Bulls had already beaten the Beermen twice in a best-of-seven affair and they have never lost a Game 7. The Bulls have won all four of their previous best-of-seven series with two of them going the distance.

"There's always a first time and it could happen on Sunday (today)," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

Super Cup: Canaleta, De Ocampos to spearhead Air21-RP dribblers



CANALETA: Slam dunk king

AIR21/FEDEX WILL REPRESENT THE country in the 16th Super Kung Sheung Cup international basketball championship in Hong Kong on July 15-23.

Slam dunk champion KG Canaleta and brothers Yancy and Ramdel de Ocampo will banner the country's bid to surpass its third-place finish in the last two years.

Ronald Tubid, Wynne Arboleda, Mark Tejan, Gary David, Leo Avenido, Homer Se, Stephen Padilla, Bruce Dacia and Ryan Bernardo complete the roster.

"With the huge Filipino community in Hong Kong backing the team, we expect to play well against tough club teams from Asia," said Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina, who relayed the acceptance of Air 21 to the event organizers.

Last year, the RP-FedEx team powered by Jerry Codiñera finished third behind host Hong Kong and the Los Angeles-based Asian American Sports Club.

The Philippines posted three wins against SEABA champion Malaysia, Thailand and



ALVAREZ



LINA

Fuquen (China), but dropped its games versus Hong Kong and AASC.

The country bagged the title in the annual tournament in 2002. Romel Adducal, Yancy de Ocampo and Erwin Sotto led that champion squad mentored by Johnny Tain.

FedEx president and PBA governor Lito Alvarez will serve as head of delegation of the RP team, which is also supported by Burlington, Bestank, Federal Tires and Accel.

After winning the title in 2002, the Cebuana Lhuillier-RP team of coach Aric del Rosario and Dong Vergeire took second behind Hong Kong.



LIM

BSAAA honors Graham

THE BOHOL Schools Amateur Athletic Association (BSAAA) will hold the Graham C. Lim Basketball Challenge as a tribute to the Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general.

Now on its 12th season, the BSAAA is the only inter-school basketball tournament in Tagbilaran City sanctioned by the local chapter of the BAP which is headed by sportsman Rodolfo Luis Madangut.

Its member-schools include Bohol Institute of Technology, Holy Spirit School, Central Visayas State College of Arts, Forestry, and Technology, Tagbilaran City Science High School, Bohol Wisdom School, Tagbilaran Acceleration Christian School, St. Theresa School, Grace Christian School, University of Bohol, and Mansana High School.

Coseteng-Ramirez Touring Car rivalry heats up



KOOKIE Ramirez

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—THE chase for the overall championship in the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships heats up with the third stage to be flagged off today at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA hopes nothing fails in his car's set up this time as he aims to erase a two-point lead by Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Coseteng swept the second

leg and now has 54 points to lead everyone in the event being sponsored by San Miguel Corporation, Petron, Valvoline, TNi, Yokohama, Rota, Ray Ban, Bendax, Starbright Bodylots, A1 Driving, BRC, SIR, Gadgets, KTC Tools, The Philippine Star, 97.9 Home Radio, 92.3 Joey FM, 99.5 RT and autoundustry.com.

Ramirez, parading his new Honda EK, got the lead following his sweep in the kickoff leg, but his vehicle setup for the second leg didn't work as well.

"I'm not really thinking much about the rivalry," Ramirez said.

"My concern is to win and hope things will work out perfectly in this leg," said Ramirez.

Hoping to get in the way of the looming Coseteng-Ramirez rivalry are Louis Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA, Don Pastor of Bioactive Team TEC, privateer Dominic Bon, Dennis Uy of Velocity Motors, Carlos Anton of MP Turbo and Renan Morales of Shift Racing.

Louis Ramirez has been a consistent threat while Pastor, despite being the youngest driver in the field, can't be taken lightly. He finished third and fourth in the last leg.

Race 1—(On/Off)—Sir Olson (7), Samahan (3), Jang Road (10), Diamond Sky (5)	Race 11—(On/Off)—Western Legend (8), Biking (4), Max Que Nado (5), Prince Valant (3), Stradivarius (7)
Race 2—(On/Off)—Empire Lady (1), Gussy (7), Mary Jane Bomb (6), Jayvee Godfather (5)	Race 12—(On/Off)—Western Dancer (4), St. German (6), Pivovits (5), Benurion's Pride (1)
Race 3—(On/Off)—Pavinsawmisen (6), Lord Brian (5), Top Of Dharma (1), Jotofo (2)	Race 13—(Super/On/Off)—Blue tte (8), Katsnikov (10), Express Strike (11), Can And Will (1), East But Lady (4), Wang-Peay (5)
Race 4—(On/Off)—Little Girl (7), Open Sky (9), Simpoli Saker/Take A Strike (1), LoveK2 (10), Old Old Old (3)	
Race 5—(On/Off)—El Nido Vlay (4), Night And Power (2), Bull Rider (1)	
Race 6—(On/Off)—Speed Bull (8), Green Cut (6), Pivovits (7), Sutter's Royal (4), Time Deposit (5)	
Race 7—(On/Off)—Vivara (4), Fairy Queen (5), Tiger (2)	
Race 8—(On/Off)—Modern Classic (3), Hiss A Saling (4), Harry Prince (6), Wok Nored (2)	
Race 9—(On/Off)—Enos's Talent (2), Sweet Talk (12), Dunker Buster (11), Kim Possible (4), Dona Nene (3)	
Race 10—(On/Off)—Iron Mic (6), Federal Coast (5), Nerson (1), Drink N Drink (7)	



BY TOP CHOICE

Rotary golfest up in Bacolod

THE ROTARY GOLFING FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES' 2006 Rotary Golf Champion of the Year competition continues in the Southern Leg tournament set Aug. 24-27 in Bacolod City.

Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club courses are the venues of the event, which had a Baguio City launching in January to mark RGFFP's 20th year.

The top four winners in Baguio in classes A, B, C and D, and the same number of winners in the Southern Leg will figure in the match play championship. They were:

Class A—Mars Garcia, RC-Baguio South; Paragrin de Guzman Jr., RC-Cabanatuan; Tim Abejo, RC-Quezon City; and Honor Mendoza, RC-Makati Southwest.

Class B—Joey Magcalayo, RC-Lipa South; Johnny Chan, RC-Aiabang; Emil Alviar, RC-Lipa; and Chito Cruz, RC-Metro West Triangle.

Class C—Danilo Mercado, RC-Bagumbayan; Tito Tanseco, RC-Metro West Triangle; Joel Belardo, RC-Makati Central; and Bobby Lagaspi, RC-Baguio North.

Class D—Jay Tambunting, RC-Makati West; Robert Ynsion, RC-Intramuros; Fred Nakpil, RC-Sta. Maria; and Romeo David, RC-Pasey Mla.



MANNY Pacquiao (right) and Oscar Larios share a light moment during the official weigh-in at the Discovery Suites yesterday. (Stories on A23)

Highlands Ladies Cup stakes miles, Grandis

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZES WORTH ALMOST P2 million including 500,000 credit miles from HSBC and a Mitsubishi Grandis will be up for grabs in the First Highlands Ladies Cup, a fund-raising tournament on Saturday, July 15 at the Tagaytay Mid-lands golf course.

The post-summer event, a project of the newly formed Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter with the full backing of Tagaytay Highlands' top honchos Willie Ocer and Jerry Tiu, is getting bigger and bigger.

Five Platinum and eight Gold sponsors and nine Silver backers, not to mention the almost two dozen companies giving out raffle and giveaway items, have thrown their support to the noble project.

Part of the proceeds of the event will benefit the Sisters of Mary in Boys and Girls Town in Silang, Cavite, which provides free education to poor children.

The miles credit from HSBC, the world's local bank, will be the prize for an ace on No. 12 while the Grandis will be won by the player who aces No. 5. A Club Car cart is at stake on No. 17 while Richwell Trading is giving Barbie dolls to players shooting aces on No. 3.

Joining HSBC as Platinum sponsors are Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, San Miguel Corp. and Highlands Prime. The Herma Group, Inquirer Golf, Antonio's Restaurant, Rosalie Heo, Rosalind Wee, Richwell Trading/Barbie Dolls, Boysen Paints, Regent Travel and Celenthy Healthy Quencher are the Gold sponsors.

Silver sponsors are Metrobaker (Dundin Donuts), Welch, PBCOM, Pascual Laboratories, Club Marinduque and Resorts. Orocan, Morning Glory Theme and Burlington Socks.

Call Doly or Maybelle at 536-2558 or 522-7189 or fax 521-8848 for details.

SPORTSWATCH

JVC Open heats up at Glorietta today

EIGHT TEAMS WHICH SURVIVED THE GRUELING ELIMINATIONS FIGHT IT OUT for berths in the semifinal round in the corporate division of the JVC Open Badminton Championships, which kicks off the final week of the P1 million event at the Glorietta Activity Center today. AB Leisure blanked Prudential Life, 3-0, while Meralco, Robinson's Land and defending champion Philippine Star all posted 2-0 victories over Toyota, ABS-CBN and Ayala Land, respectively, to virtually assure their stint in the next round where play shifts from a three-game contest to a five-match competition. Games start at 11 a.m. with the winners advancing to the semis slated on July 6 along with the semis matches in the elite division.

Benitez, Alvarez renew karting rivalry

THE RIVALRY BETWEEN TOP JUNIOR KARTERS JAVI BENITEZ OF JET RACING and John Alvarez of the Cebu Racing Group resumes as the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series moves to the Boomland Kart Track at the Cultural Center of the Philippine Complex on Sunday, July 9. After their successful partnership that bagged the Asian Karting Junior ROK crown for the country, Benitez and Alvarez will part ways. Following his triumph in the Asian karting event last month, Benitez paced the hunt for the Junior ROK plum of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and sponsored by Shell Helix, San Miguel Corp., Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils. Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and Yokohama Kart Tires. Alvarez, who pivoted Benitez's title-clinching feat by distracting foreign rivals, is aiming to regain the top spot as he eyes a second straight victory. Joining them are Jet Racing karters Tomas Cabili, Roby Benito, John Turalba and Paco Rodriguez of the Cebu Racing Group.

Derby: P3.5 million up for grabs

THE MANAGEMENT OF SAN JUAN COLISEUM WILL STAGE THE RAMBULAN SA SAN Juan 5-cock derby on July 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, and 29, a super event that stakes a guaranteed pot of P3.5 million. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "Small-time cockers and breeders can easily join because the entry fee is only P8,800," said Ronnie Lacson of UBBA Sports Group, one of the promoters. Participants who will score two points in the elimination rounds (2-cock) on July 17, 19, 21 and 24 will share in the P200,000 day prize. Those with two points will advance to the championship round (3-cock) on July 29, with a total of P2 million on the line. Participants with 1 and 1.5 points will face one another on July 26, and will vie for the following prizes: day champion, P400,000; any three points, P200,000 and hand-drier, P100,000. Contact the SJC office at 725-8563; 725-5369 and 0917-8041691.

Makati cockfest stakes P2M, Ford Escape

WITH CLOSE TO 200 ENTRIES EXPECTED, THE SALPUKAN SA TAGLUGON 5-cock derby offering P2 million plus a brand new Ford Escape blasts off at Makati Coliseum on July 10, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 22 with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of W.T.J Sports and Amusement Corp. pegged the entry fee at P10,000 and minimum bet at P5,500. Participants may field an entry during the elimination rounds (2-cock) on July 10, 12, 15 and 17. The semifinal and finals round are scheduled on July 19 and 22. "To be fair, all participants must pass the 2-cock elimination rounds," said Orillaza. "No straight five cocks will be allowed." Meanwhile, the Winchester Gold 4-cock derby takes center stage at Makati Coliseum tomorrow with more than 60 fights. The total guaranteed prize is P300,000. For info, call 896-3545 and 896-6475.



PACQUIAO-LARIOS TICKETS: Sportshouse recently held the raffle draw of their free tickets promo to the Manny Pacquiao-Oscar Larios Mano A Mano fight at the Big Dome today. From left, Prescy Tresvalles and Michelle Glinoga of Sportshouse, Mario Asis of the Department of Trade and Industry and Roy Ordiales of Sportshouse pick the winners at the Megamall outlet.

LAS VEGAS 8-BALL

Bata banners RP team

A STRONG FILIPINO CONTINGENT led by defending champion Efrén "Bata" Reyes will see action in the \$2 million International Pool Tour (IPT) grand finals at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, from July 23-30.

Also known as the 2006 North American 8-Ball Championship, the tournament carries the biggest pot of any pool tournament in the globe with the winner going home with \$350,000 (P18.5 million) richer.

Second place will be worth \$99,000, with third worth \$80,000.

"For flag and country, I will do my very best in this prestigious IPT event," said Reyes, the 2006 SMB Asian 9-ball tour Vietnam leg winner, in Filipino.

Reyes, a protégé of billiards patron Arstee "Putch" Puyat and Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) president Ernie Fajardo, thumped former IPT tour champ American Mike Sigel in the finals last December when the event was held at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

"There's a strong possibility that a

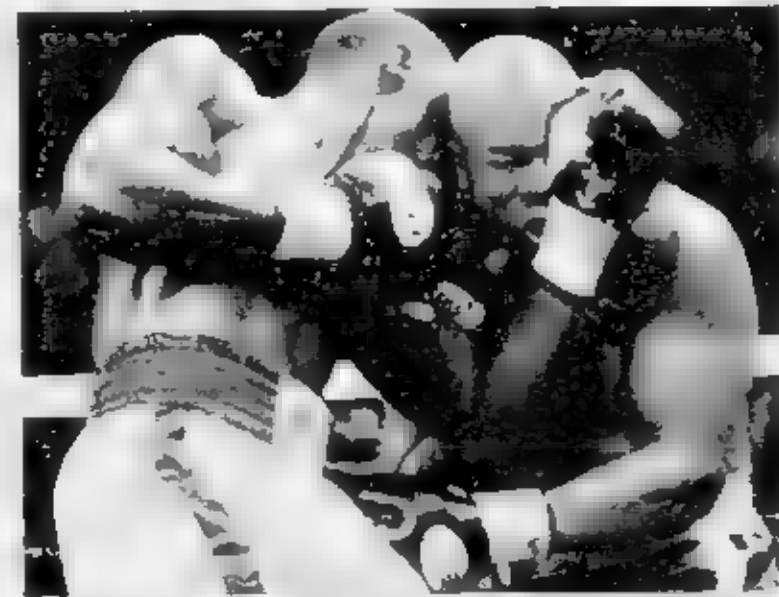
Filipino will win the championship," Puyat said. "The RP delegation will be composed of world class players who are all used to playing in tough, international settings."

The other Filipinos guaranteed of slots in the event are Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Marlon Manalo and Jose "Amang" Panca.

Others who qualified are Alex "The Lion" Paguayan, Dennis Orcollo, Renato Acano, Warren Kuamco, Rodolfo Luat, Gandy Vaine, Antonio Luning and Santos Sam-bayan. **Marlon Bernardino**



REYES: Will he be P18.5M richer?



FIERCE BATTLE: Andre Purlett (left) tangles with Darnell Wilson during the third round of a boxing match in Hollywood Friday.

New dad Paragua makes short work of young foe

GRAND MASTER MARK PARAGUA needed 13 moves of a Razi Opening to crush 7-year-old Ivy Dennis Bucog at the start yesterday of first Ozamiz City National Open Chess Tournament at the Congressman Hilario Ramiro Jr. City Gymnasium in Ozamiz, Misamis Occidental.

The 22-year-old Paragua, whose wife Christine gave birth to their first born, King Joshua, on June 19, prevailed with the black pieces to lead other opening day winners in the P70,000, nine-round Swiss event hosted and sponsored by Ozamiz Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr.

Other first-round winners included second seed and National Master Emmanuel Senador of Iloilo City, No. 3 and newly installed In-

ternational Master Oliver Dimakiling, fourth-ranked Barlo Nadera and No. 5 Richard Bitoon of Cebu. Seventh seed Mirabeau Maga of Quezon City and No. 9 Ruston Tolentino also advanced.

Senator trounced Joseph Caballes; Dimakiling clobbered Rolando Calapan; Nadera waylaid Gaere Capuyan; Bitoon nipped John Rey-mark Capuyan; Maga thumped Melchor Catanzan and Tolentino tripped Quintine Quilatan.

A total of 172 players are seeing action in the event behind run by National Chess Federation of the Philippines Region 10 coordinator Rey Urbizondo where the winner walks away with the top prize of P30,000. **Marlon Bernardino, contributor**

Kimoni Tour Manila draws record roster

A RECORD ROSTER OF 1,160 players vie for the last available berths for the grand finals in the Manila leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 at the Olympic Badminton Court in Libis, Quezon City.

The field of the Manila leg, which started yesterday, of the Kimoni Tour is believed to be the biggest in the local tournament scene ever since the badminton fever hit the country.

The Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006, supported by Powerade, will be capped by the Battle of the Champions July 22 and 23 at the Market! Market! Activity Center in Port Bon-

facio, Taguig, with the leg winners of various tournaments nationwide will compete for cash prizes and the limited edition of Kimoni Golden Power Rackets worth P20,000.

July 23 will be an extra special day as Kimoni Philippines has lined up an array of activities to spice up the event including celebrity marches, celebrity singers and the first ever Kimoni fashion show titled "Fashionably Kimoni" as Kimoni launches their casual wears aside from their sports apparels, designed by their inhouse international endorser, Shiermie Bautista.

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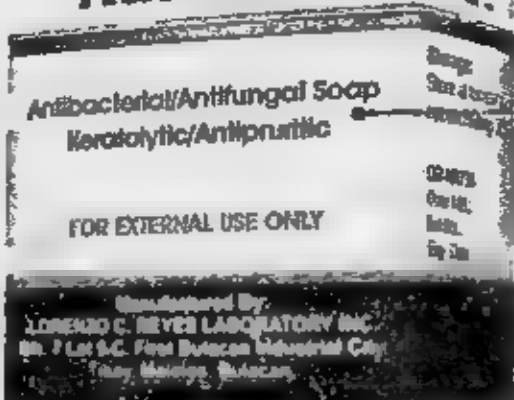
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V-LEAGUE

Lady Archers near crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LA SALLE MADE EFFICIENT USE OF ITS HIGH-POWERED LINEUP to overcome a San Sebastian side mainly dependent on its Thai import yesterday and move a victory away from capturing the 2006 Shakey's V-League second conference title at the Blue Eagle Gym.

With veteran Renea Saet setting the ball up perfectly, the Lady Archers demolished the Lady Stags, 25-23, 25-13, 25-22, and now looked headed to a third straight V-League title.

Game 2 of the best-of-three series is set today at 2 p.m. after the 1 p.m. awarding rites for top individual performers.

In the first game, Adamson got 30 points from Cherry Rose Macatangay in downing Lyceum, 18-25, 25-18, 25-15, 25-19, to

clinch third place. Macatangay, a favorite to win the top scorer award, hit all her points on the attack for the Lady Falcons, who were playing for the first time in the tourney organized by Sports Vision and backed by Accel, Mikasa, Aquabest, VPresh, ABC-5 and ABC Sports.

"We did a good job defending (Jaroensri) Bualee," said La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, referring to the SSC's Thai reinforcement who still unloaded 17 points. "Our blocking clicked today."

GAME TODAY (Blue Eagle Gym)

1 p.m.—Awarding ceremony
2 p.m.—La Salle vs SSC-R (Game 2)

But it was the excellent work of Saet who kept La Salle's offense going.

La Salle's very own Thai import Jindarat Kanchana and skipper Desiree Hernandez went on to score 13 and 12 points, respectively. They each made 10 points on the attack.

Michelle Darum and Manilla Santos also contributed nine and eight points, respectively.

Bualee, a front-runner for key individual awards today, failed to inspire San Sebastian which led, 4-0, in the second set but soon

committed a rash of errors in set-ups and reception.

Saet, a stocky 5-foot-4 former national team mainstay, displayed better grasp of the game against her counterpart Ma. Theresa Iratay. She knew where everybody was at any given time and even escaped with a tip-in to give La Salle a 24-12 lead in the second set.

The Lady Stags managed to put up a fight in the third in a desperate attempt to extend the game, taking a 12-10 lead on back-to-back spikes by Jeanne Cathryn Espolung and Joy Pulido.

But Kanchana, Datuin and Santos took turns hammering winners to give the Archers the lead to stay at 18-16.



JOY Pulido of SSC challenges the defense of Adamson during the Shakey's V-League games at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ateneo. **ENR/ANAS**



NBA slam dunk champion Nate Robinson of the New York Knicks presents a pair of "Nate the Great" shoes to Ateneo cager Mike Gamboa for winning the Hard Work Award in the Nike All-Asia Basketball Camp in Beijing, China.

Ateneo jr star feted in All-Asia cage camp

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WHEN A YOUNG, HIGH school standout catches the fancy of two NBA

Ateneo's Michael "Mike" Gamboa got raves from NBA slam dunk champion Nate Robinson and Jason Richardson to become the only Filipino in the All-Star squad at the recent Nike All-Asia Basketball Camp in Beijing, China.

"Making it to the All-Star is already a big achievement," said Gamboa. "I did not expect to make it to the top 20 considering how tall and talented the other participants in the camp."

The 5-foot-6 guard received the Hard Work award that won him a pair of "Nate the Great" shoes from Robinson.

The 17-year-old Gamboa also reached the Final Four of the three-point contest of the five-day camp that lured 60 promising players from the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

Gamboa earned a slot in the elite 20 after earning high marks based on performances in the first three days of drills and tests.

"It was a sweet and memorable experience," added Gamboa.

David Marcelo of San Beda and Joshua David Webb of La Salle Zobel also participated in the basketball camp.

Gamboa earned the right to represent the Philippines after bagging the Most Valuable Player plum in the Elite Camp organized by PBA mentor Eric Altamirano and PBL veteran Alex Compton.

"Mike's heart allows him to play big despite his size," said Ateneo juniors coach Jamike Jarin. "He really works hard."

Espinas named NC's week best

HE NEEDED TO search for his usual fiery self After struggling in his first two games, Philippine Christian University star Gabby Espinas finally rose to the challenge.

Espinas pumped in 24 points, eight rebounds and two blocks to lead the Dolphins to a 74-72 victory over San Sebastian College last Friday at the NCAA men's basketball tournament. With the feat, the Dolphins claimed solo second with a 2-1 win-loss mark.

"He just needs to be focused all the time and challenge himself at crucial times so that he can lift the team to victory," PCU coach Joe Dualan said of Espinas, who earned the league's first Player of the Week citation.

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Federer's road to final opens up; Hingis out

LONDON—ROGER FEDERER was left with a clear run to a fourth successive Wimbledon final on Friday when danger-men David Nalbandian and James Blake both crashed out in the third round.

Argentinian fourth seed Nalbandian, one of just four men to have beaten Federer since the start of 2005, was dismissed by Spanish 28th seed Fernando Verdasco, 7-6 (11/9), 7-6 (11/9), 6-2.

Blake, the eighth seeded American, lost a grueling five-setter to Belarusian giant Max Mirnyi, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.

In the women's event, 1997 champion Martina Hingis saw her dreams of a second title ended by Japanese veteran Ai Sugiyama who won their third round clash, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Svetlana Kuznetsova, the Russian fifth seed and a former US Open champion, was also packing her bags as Li Na became the first Chinese woman to make the fourth round with a 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 win.

Federer, the triple champion and world No. 1, took full advantage of his rivals' slip-ups by clinching his 45th consecutive grass court win with a 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 victory over France's Nicolas Mahut.

He will now face the Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych for a place in the quarterfinals.

"Mahut serves and volleys first and second



HINGIS: Dream run ends

serve but I'd rather hit constant winners from the baseline," said Federer. "I knew I had wait for my chances and not get frustrated."

Nalbandian, the 2002 runner-up, paid a heavy price for demanding that his match be scheduled as early as possible to allow him time to watch Argentina face Germany in the World Cup quarterfinals.

"I had never played a match before on the same day as a World Cup game, but the organizers were OK about it," said Nalbandian.

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 champion, reached

the third round after edging a marathon five-setter against South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik.

The sixth-seed Australian broke Lee's service in the tenth game of the fifth set to clinch a 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 victory in a match that had been interrupted on Thursday night at the end of the fourth set.

In total, the Australian was on court for five minutes short of four hours—far from ideal preparation for Saturday's third round meeting with Belgian Olivier Rochus.

"Survival, that's all it really was out there," said Hewitt. "I was frustrated that I didn't close it out on Thursday but he's a hell of a shotmaker."

In the other third round match held over from Thursday, Britain's Andy Murray saw off France's Julien Benneteau, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, to set up a fourth round clash against Andy Roddick.

Hingis, playing here for the first time since 2001, squandered a 3-0 lead in the final set against Sugiyama who now faces France's Severine Bremond for a place in the quarterfinals.

Li, the 27th seed, will face 10th seeded Nicole Pietrangeli of the Czech Republic for a quarterfinal spot but China was unable to celebrate a second woman in the fourth round when Belgian second seed Kim Clijsters beat Zheng Jie, 6-3, 6-2.

Justine Henin-Hardenne, fresh from her third French Open triumph, moved into the fourth round as she targets winning the only Grand Slam to have eluded her.

Chakvetadze, the Russian 30th seed, 6-2, 6-3 and will take on Daniela Hantuchova next. AFP



DEFENDING champion Roger Federer returns to France's Nicolas Mahut, during their men's singles, third round match on the Number One Court at Wimbledon.

All eyes on Nadal-Agassi match



NADAL

LONDON—SPANISH POWERHOUSE Rafael Nadal can bring the curtain down on Andre Agassi's Wimbledon career on Saturday when they battle for a place in the fourth round.

Agassi's announcement that he will retire after this year's US Open has merely increased interest in the Centre Court showdown between the eight-times grand slam champion and the 20-year-old double French Open winner.

It should prove an intriguing contest in which Agassi will need all his wily grasscourt skills to bridge the 16-year

age gap between the players.

Nadal is still learning how to play on Wimbledon's lawns, as witnessed by his struggle to see of American qualifier Robert Kendrick on Thursday, but his fighting qualities are without question.

Andy Roddick, runner-up for the last two years, takes on Andy Murray, the last surviving British player, later on the main showcourt—a match that could overlap with England's World Cup quarter-final against Portugal.

Wins for Murray and David Beckham and company could spark quite a

party around Wimbledon's Champagne

Women's champion Venus Williams will hope for a more straightforward time when she plays Serb Jelena Janokovic in the third round on court two.

Williams was on the brink of defeat against Lisa Raymond in round two before pulling victory out of the fire. World number one Amelie Mauresmo is also in action against Nicole Pratt, while 2004 champion Maria Sharapova plays Amy Frazier. Reuters

Zulkifli, Thai rule RP leg of Asian Tour

MALAYSIAN SHALIN ZULKIFLI AND THAI Surasak Manuwong ruled the Philippine leg of the Asian Bowling Federation (ABF) Tour held recently at the Eastwood Bowling Center.

Ranked No. 1 in Asia, the 27-year-old Zulkifli crushed PBC Open champion Kang Hyun Jin of Korea, 188-155, to win her second straight tour title. She won the Thailand leg two months ago.

Zulkifli, who also won this year's Thailand Open, ousted Filipino Marjo Reyes, 225-200, while Kang downed compatriot Kim Eun-Jung, 236-226, to advance in the championship round of this event supported by H.S. Pow Construction and Development Corporation, Smart Telecoms, Eastwood City and Paeng's Eastwood Bowl and Billiards Center.

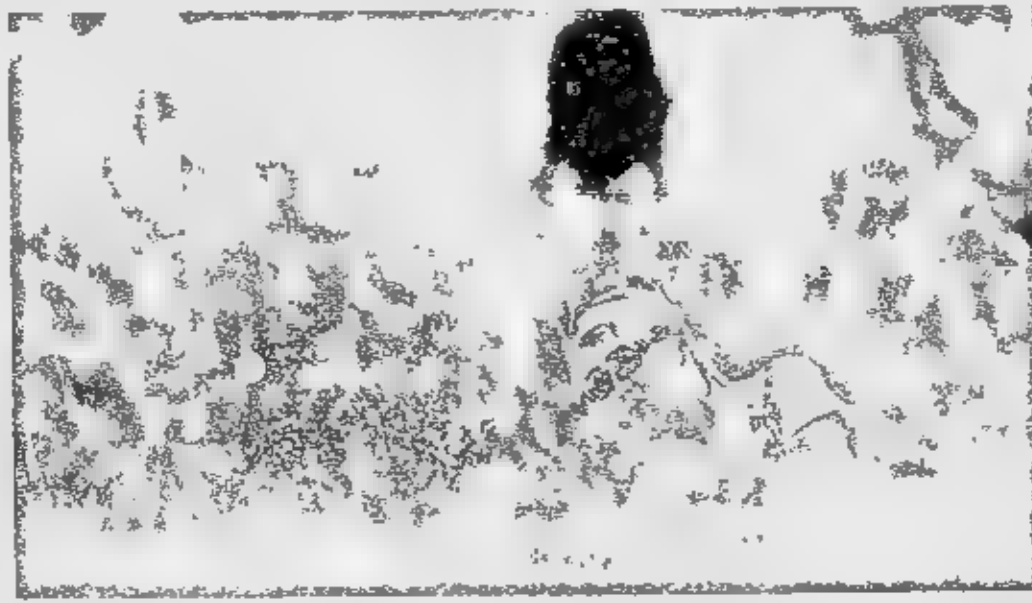
Manuwong pocketed his first international title after posting a 212-157 victory over Filipino Chester King.

The Thai had earlier won over another Filipino, 2015 Philippine Open champion CJ Suarez, 214-179, in the second semifinal match while King beat Korean Kong Byoung-hee, 242-199, in the first semis match.

The next stop of the eight-leg ABF Tour will be in Jakarta, Indonesia, on July 30.

Prince Home and Away tilt

SEVEN TEAMS LED BY DEFENDING CHAMPION Philippine Columbian Association are seeing action in the 2006 Prince Home and Away Invitational Tennis tournament slated July 1 to August 19. Also participating are last year's runnerup Mandaluyong Tennis Club, second runner up Valle Verde Country Club (VVCC), Eusebio Tennis Club (ETC), Mandaluyong Lawn Tennis Club (MLTC), La Consolacion (LACO) and Capital Tennis Club (CTC). Each tie will have the 35 and above ladies, 35 and above doubles, 45 and above doubles, 55 and above doubles 1 and 2, and open doubles 1 and 2 events. The team which wins four-of-seven events wins the tie. Tournament format calls for the top two teams after the single round-robin elimination advancing into the semifinal round while the 3rd to 7th placers will dispute the other two berths. The winners in the semis will play in the winner-take-all championship round.



JENNIFER Rosales of the Philippines hits out of a bunker on the way to a 78.

Sorenstam, Pak take lead

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND—SOUTH KOREAN Se Ri Pak, eyeing a second straight major title, joined a four-way tie for the lead at the US Women's Open on Friday that also included Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam.

Pak, who won the McDonald's LPGA Championship just three weeks ago, posted a steady 69 that was matched by Sorenstam, Pat Hurst and amateur Jane Park at Newport Country Club.

"I just had such a solid round. It didn't give me any trouble out there," said the 28-year-old Pak, who nearly a decade ago blazed the trail for South Korean golfers on the LPGA. "I have so much confidence in myself, so I really enjoyed it."

On a day when the average score was 76 strokes, the foursome were one shot in front of a group of five players that included 16-year-old sensation Michelle Wie.

Mexican Lorena Ochoa, this year's LPGA money leader, was two back.

"My round wasn't perfect today so I'm not absolutely happy with it," Wie said. "But I felt I had a very solid round, lots of pars, and that's what the US Open is, you have to have pars."



JENNIFER Rosales of the Philippines hits out of a bunker on the way to a 78.

"I had a lot of fairways, but a lot of greens and I know it's going to get better and better, so I think that's a good opening round."

After thick fog prevented any play on Thursday, the tournament finally began under sunny skies.

Overnight thunderstorms left the course sodden, and players were forced to take casual relief with monotonous regularity.

"We have a lot of drops because of all the casual water in the fairway," Pak said. "The condition of the course is really making it a lot harder. I had to hit a lot of 4- and 3-irons to the green, which is not easy."

Pak was only 20 when she burst onto the scene winning the 1998 US Women's Open and LPGA Championship, and she remained a dominant player until last year, when she slumped to 102nd on the money list, due partly to injuries, but also to burnout.

She quit on the ninth hole at the Women's British Open after failing to reach the green in eight shots, and did not return for the rest of the year.

"I feel great to be back," she said. AFP

Tour de France pedals off sans big name stars

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—THE Tour de France will begin the post Lance Armstrong era in dramatic but dire fashion here Saturday after three of the yellow jersey favorites were effectively thrown out the race.

Jan Ullrich and Ivan Basso were suspended by their respective teams' after reports of them being on a list of 58 alleged blood dopers refused to go away.

Later in the day the entire Astana team, which is spearheaded by Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan, was pulled out of the race by its management company after it emerged that five of their nine riders are also on the list of riders alleged to have used the blood doping services of a tainted former team doctor currently being investigated in Madrid.

In total, 13 riders were thrown off the Tour Friday, including Spaniards Francisco Mancebo, of AG2R, and T-Mobile's Oscar Sevilla.

It also means none of last year's top five are now in the starting lineup, leaving the race to succeed seven-time winner Armstrong embarrassingly wide open.

The doping probe in Spain has yet to reach its conclusions, and more names could follow suit.

Far from wondering who will succeed the now retired 34-year-old Armstrong, reactions to what could emerge as the biggest doping crisis since the 1998 Festina drugs scandal almost brought the Tour to its knees were unanimous.

"It's a shock. I'm extremely disap-

pointed, but we have to accept what has happened and react to positively," said AG2R manager Vincent Lavenu.

Lavenu's words must have been particularly difficult to muster.

The Frenchman, whose ha was trying to get his team Pro To status—and with it an automatic Tour invite—was rewarded at the start of the season, was forced suspend his team leader.

Spaniard Mancebo, who car fourth in the Tour last year before Ullrich, is also on the now infamous list but is now on his way home as possibly leaving professional cycling behind.

For Lavenu, the consequences could be more serious.

"For us, getting into the Pro To was the result of huge efforts on our part. We got in, and we even had a chance of making it on to the Tour podium," he added.

"But as we see, it can also have negative effects. And who's to say whether one of our sponsors decides to leave us at the end of the year?"

It was the exclusion of Basso and Ullrich, however, which has caused the biggest sensation.

Basso, the recent winner of the Tour of Italy with a convincing margin of over nine minutes, was primed to move up from second to first place after yet another year of promise.

However shortly after Ullrich's suspension was announced by the German team T-Mobile, it did not take long for CSC to follow suit. AFP

Romualdez lines up football calendar

COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL ACTION KICKED OFF yesterday with the 4th Liga tournament at the Sportsports football field.

Organized by the Philippine Football Federation, Ang Liga games will be held at the Ateneo de Manila University on July 8-9.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez, who graced the opening rites, noted the growing popularity of the sport "since the inspiring performance of the national teams in the SEA Games last year."

Other competitions lined up for the year include the PFF Cup Qualifier Fiesta and the 10-day Tiger Red Raffle to be staged by the PFF and the Negros Occidental Football Association.

Last summer, the PFF organized football festivals with Solar Entertainment to promote the 2006 World Cup in different parts of the country.

The project led local football to television through cable-TV show "The Quest For The Cup," produced and created by the SportsPlus channel.

By partnering the German Technical Cooperation, the PFF also promoted the peace and development through football in the Visayas and Mindanao. Lufthansa also supported the football community by recognizing excellent past and present football players.

Romualdez added that sponsor partners like Solar Entertainment, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Petron, Lufthansa, 2Go and GTZ continue to support the federation's programs. Jasmine W. Parn

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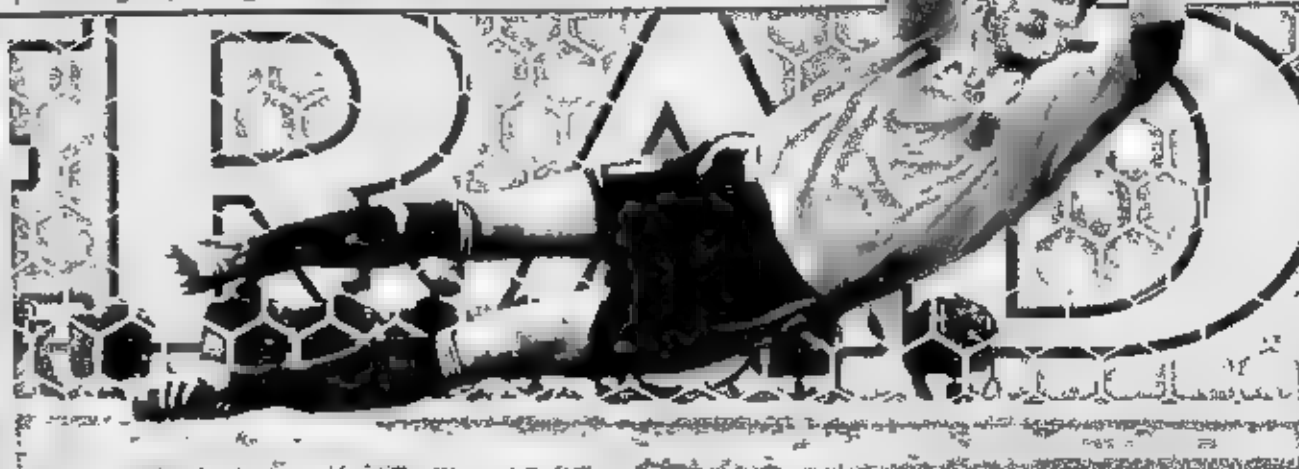
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JENS Lehmann makes a game-winning save from a penalty by Esteban Cambasso.

REUTERS

WORLD CUP

'Keeper Lehmann saves German bid

BERLIN—RACKED WITH exhaustion, its leader hobbled by cramps and fatigue, Germany summoned its last reserve of energy.

Showing there's no end to their resourcefulness and tenacity at this World Cup, the hosts beat Argentina, 4-2, in a shootout Friday after a grueling 1-1 draw. Moments after he sat on the pitch at the end of a goal-less extra time, captain Michael Ballack converted a penalty kick to help dispatch an old rival—and one of the tournament's fellow glamour teams.

While Germany took advantage of Argentina backup keeper Leonardo Franco with one penalty kick after another, veteran Jens Lehmann stopped two, putting Germany in the semifinals of the World Cup.

"It's a thriller, like a Hitchcock movie," Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann said. "Obviously you're the happiest person in the world if you win it, and the saddest if you lose."

The party heads to Dortmund for the semifinal Tuesday against Italy, with Germany riding a feeling of near-invincibility. The Germans, looking like world



MIROSLAV Klose celebrates the goal that allowed Germany to tie the game and set the stage for the shootout against Argentina.

REUTERS

beaters after their toughest test, are seeking their fourth world title.

Argentina heads home exhausted, despite controlling the ball for most of the match.

"It was a very emotional game, worth a quarterfinal," said Argentina coach Jose Pekerman, who resigned after the game. "Argentina played like a favorite, played well, even though they lost."

Argentina, which came into the game having lived up to its reputation with

creative, free-flowing offense, played tentatively in the first half but led 1-0 early in the second on Roberto Ayala's soaring header in the 49th minute.

But rather than panic after falling behind for the first time in the tournament, the Germans relentlessly wore down Argentina from there. Germany pressed the attack on Franco, who was playing only his third game with Argentina and his first minutes of the World Cup.

AP

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CRY, ARGENTINA, cry. Argentina fans openly weep following their team's loss in a penalty shootout at the end of the quarterfinal World Cup football match against Germany.

Adversity-struck Italians find way to reach semis

HAMBURG, GERMANY—THE COUNTRY IS BESET BY ITS biggest match-fixing scandal in two dozen years, and a former teammate is fighting for his life after falling from a window.

In the face of such adversity, Italy rode a surge of emotion and produced its best performance in six years Friday for a 3-0 victory over newcomer Ukraine to set up a World Cup semifinal against host Germany.

Striker Luca Toni ended his World Cup frustration with two second-half goals and defender Gianluca Zambrotta produced an all-around performance with a goal, an assist and a goal-line clearance.

Right after the match, Italy's players unfurled an Italian tricolor flag with the inscription "Pessotto we are with you." It referred to Gianluca Pessotto, who played for Italy's Euro 2000 runners-up and was in a drug-induced coma after falling from a Juventus team headquarters window in Turin early in the week.

"My goal was for Pessotto," said former Juventus teammate Zambrotta, who flew home earlier in the week to visit his friend. "All the squad want to extend an affectionate hug to him."

Pessotto was appointed Juventus team manager after the match-fixing scandal engulfed Italy's most successful club.

"This team has an incredible character and a fantastic spirit,"

Italy coach Marcello Lippi said.

Italy wasted no time showing its mind was on the match. In the sixth minute, Zambrotta ran down the right side, exchanged passes with Francesco Toni and finished it with a searing 20-yard left foot drive that beat goalkeeper Oleksandr Shovkovskiy.

Zambrotta's goal, only his second for the national team, put the Azzurri in the situation they have perfected over decades: defending a slender lead.

Ukraine—the surprise team to make the quarterfinals in its maiden World Cup run—was able to stay in the match until the 58th minute, when Zambrotta locked a ball off his own goal line.

It would be the last chance of an upset. A minute later, Toni sealed the victory with his first World Cup goal, then added insurance in the 69th minute when he slid in Zambrotta's goalmouth pass.

ITALY'S Luca Toni is caught between Ukraine's Oleg Sholayev (below) and Andriy Husin.

REUTERS

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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NATIONAL Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan (far left, second from left) with the Lukayo women who are really farm workers (center photo) between performances of the fertility dance.

Censors suspend 'I-Witness'

What can or cannot be aired on TV?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"I-WITNESS," GMA 7'S LATE-night documentary program, was suspended for two weeks by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) because of "violations" committed in the episode "Lukayo: Hindi Ito Bastos," aired on May 22.

The MTRCB's decision was indicated in a memorandum dated June 22 and addressed to Jose Mari Abacan, vice president for program management of GMA 7, and Howie Severino, "I-Witness" host and head writer.

The memo was signed by MTRCB chair Ma. Consojiza "Marissa" Laguardia.

It resulted from the adjudication hearing

called by the board on June 6 and attended by GMA 7 representatives Severino, Nessa Valdeon, vice president for Public Affairs, Ella Evangelista, executive producer of "I-Witness," and lawyer Dick Perez, vice president for Legal Affairs.

The complaint involved the ritual dance, Lukayo, first documented by National Artist and ethnologist Ramon Obusan. The Laguna-based tradition was described in the memo as depicting "women [wearing] wooden [phalluses] of exaggerated sizes ... and [an] act of masturbation."

Laguardia pointed out: "Presidential Decree 1986 substantially provides that any television program that does not conform to the 'G' and 'PG' classification may not be aired ... phalluses and masturbation do not fall within the 'G' and 'PG' classification, applying

CENSORS/A2-2

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NEWS ANCHORS ON PHILIPINE TV newscasts, take it from veteran US broadcast journalist Dan Rather: "Too much is made of anchors and their personalities. Much more attention should be paid to the role of a free press, and the 'corporatization' of news."

That's a timely reminder, because some local TV news reporters and anchors have become too full of themselves, and their alleged star status and celebrity.

This is obvious in their look, demeanor and behavior on their newscasts: The male news persons come off like Mafia in their tight suits, colored shirts and attention-calling neckties.

As for their female counterparts, they're overly made-up, coiffed, outfitted and bejeweled. And, as they intone the news, they're given to occasionally semaphoring their reactions by way of little smirks, sighs and Mona Lisa smiles.

All of this is neither here nor there, because viewers don't really care for "personalities" where they're watching a newscast. They want to get objectivity, credibility

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So, why do some local TV news people focus on superficialities rather than the core essentials of their work? Because they aren't real journalists, they're just telegenic people who read the news that other people have covered and written.

Also, the line between news and entertainment has been blurred. These days, some TV news anchors also co-host morning programs, magazine shows and other non-news and public affairs productions. So, is it any wonder that they tend to focus on themselves, rather than the news at hand?

Some news people are able to shift their approach, depending on the kind of show they're doing. Unfortunately, others can't make the shift, so their entertainment persona

adversely colors their work when they're on news mode.

What's the way out of this mess? Our TV networks have to more rigorously separate news from non-news functions, and not expect their on-camera personnel to be quite so "versatile."

The bottom line is, viewers are most fully focused on the news, not on the telegenic people reporting it. Thus may be a downer for TV news persons—but there it is.

'Good House Music'

The dance compilation album "Good House Music," gathers 15 of the coolest club hits, from "Time Maas," to Italy's trance diva Moonie Germany's Arlab, and Australia's Disco Montego.

Also included is "O Ano?" a naughty local remix featuring dialogue excerpts by Dindo Fernando and Gloria Diaz from Danny Zia's '70s movie, "Nagalk ang Buwan sa Habang Gabi."

"O Ano?" is supported by a hilarious music video starring Jojo Alayon doing his famous dance antics while walking the streets of Manila in his trademark suit and tie.

Censors suspend 'I-Witness'

From page A2-1

contemporary Filipino values and good customs as standards."

In a phone interview with *INQUIRER* Entertainment, Severino said the suspension "highlighted several issues"—foremost of which was the "basic disagreement within our society on what is moral and immoral, on what can or cannot be shown on television."

Severino said this could serve as a "test" case. "A major question raised is 'Where do we draw the line?' The MTRCB has drawn the line. Those who value freedom of expression believe that the line can be moved... if more people became enlightened."

Laguardia told *INQUIRER*, also in a phone interview: "We must take note that it was shown on

national television... the general public may not be used to a small-town ritual like Lukayo."

She clarified in the memo that the board wasn't "passing judgment on the culture or tradition of indigenous communities."

TV exec offended

The chief censor recounted that, in the June 6 adjudication meeting, one of the network's officers "admitted that she was initially offended by what she saw... [and only] appreciated the documentary when the [cultural aspect] was explained to her."

Laguardia identified the GMA official as Valdellon. She said Valdellon's admission offered proof that the "program had objectionable content... unfortunately, not all viewers could have

the tradition explained to them."

The suspension was "effective immediately" upon receipt of the notice.

"Since we received the letter on Wednesday [June 28], the program will not go on air on July 3 and 10," Severino, who recently received the TV Investigative Journalist of the Year award given by the Rotary Club of Manila, said.

He was not disputing the decision, he clarified. "We were given due process. We were allowed to explain our side. Mr. Obusan was also present during the hearing."

He said he was glad for the chance to see how the board worked, adding: "We are law-abiding members of the television industry and the MTRCB is the regulatory board governing the industry."

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'Superman Returns'

"Superman Returns," which opened on Wednesday, is the second descendant of "Superman: The Movie" and "Superman II," and utilizes elements of Marlon Brando's performance as Jor-El.

The new film's director, Bryan Singer, has always felt an emotional affinity for Clark Kent's character, because they were both adopted.

As for Superman's persona, Singer has given it a somber, meditative tone, without detracting from his superhero exploits. And his casting of Kevin Spacey as his main nemesis is inspired.

Small wonder, then, that preview reviews of the film have been appreciative and enthusiastic, adding to the groundswell of interest that presages the movie's official play-date.

Fashion comedies

Two new films highlight trendy fashions and/or the world of haute couture: In "The Devil Wears Pr-



LINDSAY Lohan

da," Meryl Streep plays the beautiful but "monstrous" editor of Runway magazine, which is regarded as the Holy Grail of high fashion.

Anne Hathaway plays a fresh college graduate who is determined to become the editor's new assistant, even if it means making herself over in her vicious boss' image.

Soon, to her boyfriend's dismay, she can talk the talk and walk the walk flawlessly. But, the more of life she sees through Streep's eyes, the more she begins to grasp that the

fashion world is a fabulous but lonely one, and that great success depends on great sacrifice.

The second trendy comedy, "Just My Luck," stars Lindsay Lohan as the luckiest woman in the world. Unfortunately, her luck runs out

when she inherits her father's hapless character at a masquerade ball. At that moment, they switch

looks, and Lohan's world is turned

upside down!

Lohan, a fashion enthusiast, wears the trendiest clothes when her character is in her "lucky" mode—Versace cashmere coat, high-heeled Valentino boots, white cashmere pasternina, etc. But, when

she inherits her father's hapless character, she becomes a hodgepodge of clothes borrowed from other people that reflect her unfortunate turn of events.

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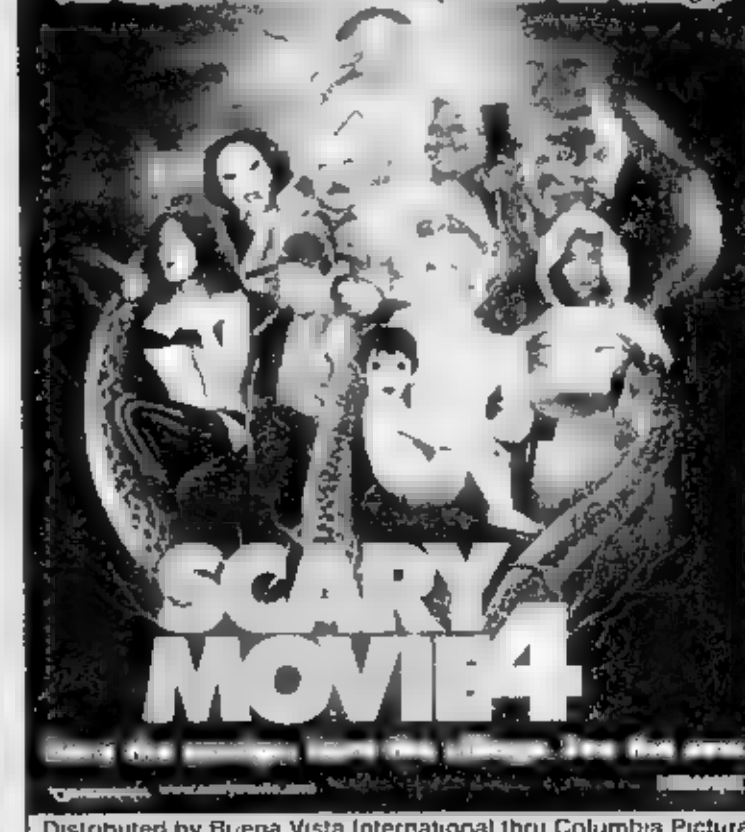
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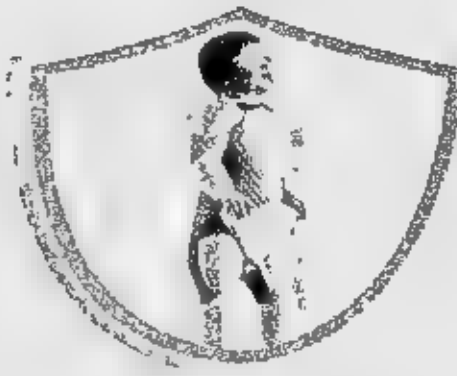


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ENTERTAINMENT

A very private Keanu Reeves, a very triumphant Ellen Marfil

LOS ANGELES—"PAMBAYAD NG UTANG!"

That's what "Mga Pusang Gala" ("Stray Cats") director-producer Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil said when asked over dinner last Wednesday how she will spend the \$10,000 prize she got for winning the Dockers First Feature Award at the recent San Francisco International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) film festival.

Ellen, a UP alumna and erstwhile Peta (Philippine Educational Theater Association) actress, almost missed accepting her trophy during the awards night. She was planning to leave San Francisco for nearby Oakland after her official stay as a film fest guest ended, when the festival's executive director asked her to stay for the Closing Night party. That was a good omen for the filmmaker behind "Mga Pusang Gala," which stars Ricky Davao, Irma Adlawan,

Reggie Curly, Lauren Novelo and Aldris Galura.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Reggie Curly, Lauren Novelo and Aldris Galura.

Small world

We raised glasses of red wine and toasted Ellen twice—for her triumph in the San Francisco film fest, which was celebrating its 30th anniversary (hence the name of this year's event, Frame-line30); and for signing up that day in LA with Artizical Entertainment for the film's international release.

We also cheered how small our world really is. Ellen's brother, JR Ongkeko, is married to Chit Bauzon Ongkeko, niece of my elementary school teacher in Calasiao, Pangasinan. And now, Mara Ongkeko, Ellen's niece and JR and Chit's daughter, is the high school classmate of our youngest daughter, Ella.

Since Lino Brocka's nephew, Q. Allan Brocka, won the same award two years ago, Ellen and I couldn't help but reminisce about Lino. We learned that Ellen had a small role in Lino's Peta staging of "Larawan," which we had watched. As a filmmaker, Lino was fast but passionate, according to Ellen, who worked behind the scenes for the late great director.

Very Pinoy

As a person, the late great Filipino filmmaker was "malambing," said Ellen. To this day, she is grateful that Lino wrote a letter of recommendation that made it possible for her to get a scholarship in video production in France.

By coincidence, Ellen and Lino were on the same flight to Paris when she left Manila for the two-month course. Upon landing in France, Ellen teased Lino about why he had a larger suitcase despite the fact that he was going to be in the French capital for only five days. According to Ellen, Lino revealed that he had packed lots of *adobo* in his luggage so he won't miss Pinoy food.

Ellen narrated that one of the San Francisco jurors jokingly told her that with the \$10,000 she won, she could make more queer films. She might direct a horror movie next although she has four other movie projects in the slate.

If Ellen was "bibang-bibang" and in a celebratory mood, Keanu Reeves was a different story. Read on.

Still-shy Keanu

In our interview with Keanu Reeves last year for "Constantine," the one lingering image that stayed in our mind to this day was that of the actor seeming to press, with his bare arms, imaginary creases on the tablecloth as he answered journalists' questions. The man appeared shy, uncomfortable with media scrutiny despite many years in the industry, and very private.

Cut to the present—a press con for his two new movies, "The Lake House" and "A Scanner Darkly." Keanu is still just as shy, awkward in the interview format and fiercely protective of his privacy. Of course we like our interview subjects to be loquacious and quotable but we don't expect all actors to be glib and gushing with sound bites. In this regard, we respect and have come to expect Keanu for what he is—a man of few words.

He didn't hesitate to say, "It's none of your business; that's personal," in response to a colleague's persistent line of questioning.

In "The Lake House," a remake of a Korean movie, "Il Mare," Keanu and his "Speed" co-star Sandra Bullock are reunited as two lovers who discover that they're actually living two years apart. They must try to solve the mystery to save their extraordinary romance.

Live to animation

Keanu's other new movie, "A Scanner Darkly," is interesting because it was shot as a live action and then transformed into an animated film using a technology known as "interpolated rotoscoping." Set in the future, Keanu plays an undercover cop whose assignment to spy on his friends launches him on a paranoid journey into the absurd.

Also populating the dark work of "Scanner" are Robert Downey Jr., Winona Ryder and Woody Harrelson.

The two movies are as different as night and day. Keanu, dressed in his favorite getup of black tee, jacket and pants, spelled it out: "The Lake

House" is a love story. "A Scanner Darkly" is a comedy and a tragedy. I don't think of these works as being science fiction or fantastical. I think they're very human stories."

Asked if he sees a parallel in the story of "Scanner" and what's going on in the US, where the government has admitted that it is spying on "suspicious" phone conversations, he replied, "I don't think it's just the United States. I would say all cities around the world have to come up against this technology about surveillance. I think about how it's used and abused. The thing that

seems to be happening is that there's just no redress. No one's watching the keeper of the information and protesting about the loss of personal rights. The powers of the entities that control information seem to be increasing while the individual's rights are diminishing."

In touch with Sandra

Of Sandra, he revealed this much: "Sandra and I have kept in touch over the years. We've had some dinners. She's written me some letters

A VERY PRIVATE/A3-2



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shy eeves

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it covers the period from the
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42 in September), Keanu re-
No comment." But then he
...it's certainly something I

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From Francis Lorenzo (franc-
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I brought my kids to the
movie house to see "Over
the Hedge," an animated
feature rated G. To my surprise the
theater showed commercials and

trailers that were rated R.

My 3-year-old was upset, and
we had to leave the theater.

I complained to the
management, but was
told it was an isolated
case.

Since then, my child
has refused to watch ani-
mated movies in a the-
ater.

I am ashamed that I was part of this

traumatic experience for my child.

I hope you can invest gate this
matter. I trust that your media insti-
tution can push government to act
on this.

If I were in the US, I probably
could have filed charges for the way
the incident affected my kid, and for
the failure of the MTRCB to carry
out its mandate.

But since I live here, I guess I can
only hope for change.

Pauleen Luna JC de Vera and Boots Anson-Roa
Jason Iwa Gian Franzen Ketchup Glaiza Katarina
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Arnold welcomes Korina's return to late-night news

By Nini Valera

THE LATE NIGHT news will be more interesting with the return of Korina Sanchez.

GMA 7 news anchor Arnold Clavio made this statement in reference to ABS-CBN's news program "Bandila," co-anchored by Sanchez, which premieres tomorrow. "Bandila" airs 30 minutes earlier than rival GMA news program "Saksi."

This does not faze Clavio, recently named Best Broadcast Journalist of the Year (2005) by the Rotary Club of Manila.

"People will be curious about Korina's return as a news person," he said.

Confident

But Clavio was confident that "Saksi" would retain its audience share. Based on the latest Metro Manila households survey by AGB Nielsen Media Research (the "largest provider of TV audience measurement services in the world," according to its Web site), "Saksi" has topped ABS-CBN's news program "Insider," which "Bandila" is replacing.

Clavio described "Saksi's" content and approach as "straightforward news reporting." He explained: "The producers look at all the angles first, so that we always air the total picture."

In a personality-driven news room scenario, Clavio, 40, has managed to stay "small," vis a vis the bigness of the stories he tells. For him, the news is the main thing, not the one who delivers it.



ARNOLD Clavio, a.k.a. Igan

This low-profile stance has apparently helped him remain afloat in the highly competitive arena that is news gathering.

"I just do my job," was how he put it—even if this job sometimes requires him to risk his life.

In 1994, the station sent Clavio to cover the hostage-taking of teachers by the Abu Sayyaf. Faced with danger at every turn, Clavio managed to gain entry into the Abu Sayyaf lair for the biggest scoop of his life. He was only 28.

How far would he go to get the news?

Death threats

"As far as I have to go," said Clavio. He didn't look for situations that would endanger his

life, he pointed out, "but somehow, they come to me."

Indeed, news seems to have a way of finding Clavio.

In July last year the "Hello, Garci" tapes—dubbed "rendition of all angles"—were on his lap. He recalled that then NBI Assistant Director Samuel Ong contacted him when Ong was ready to turn over the tapes. Clavio broke the news, which triggered the biggest controversy in the Arroyo government.

Death threats, too, have become part of

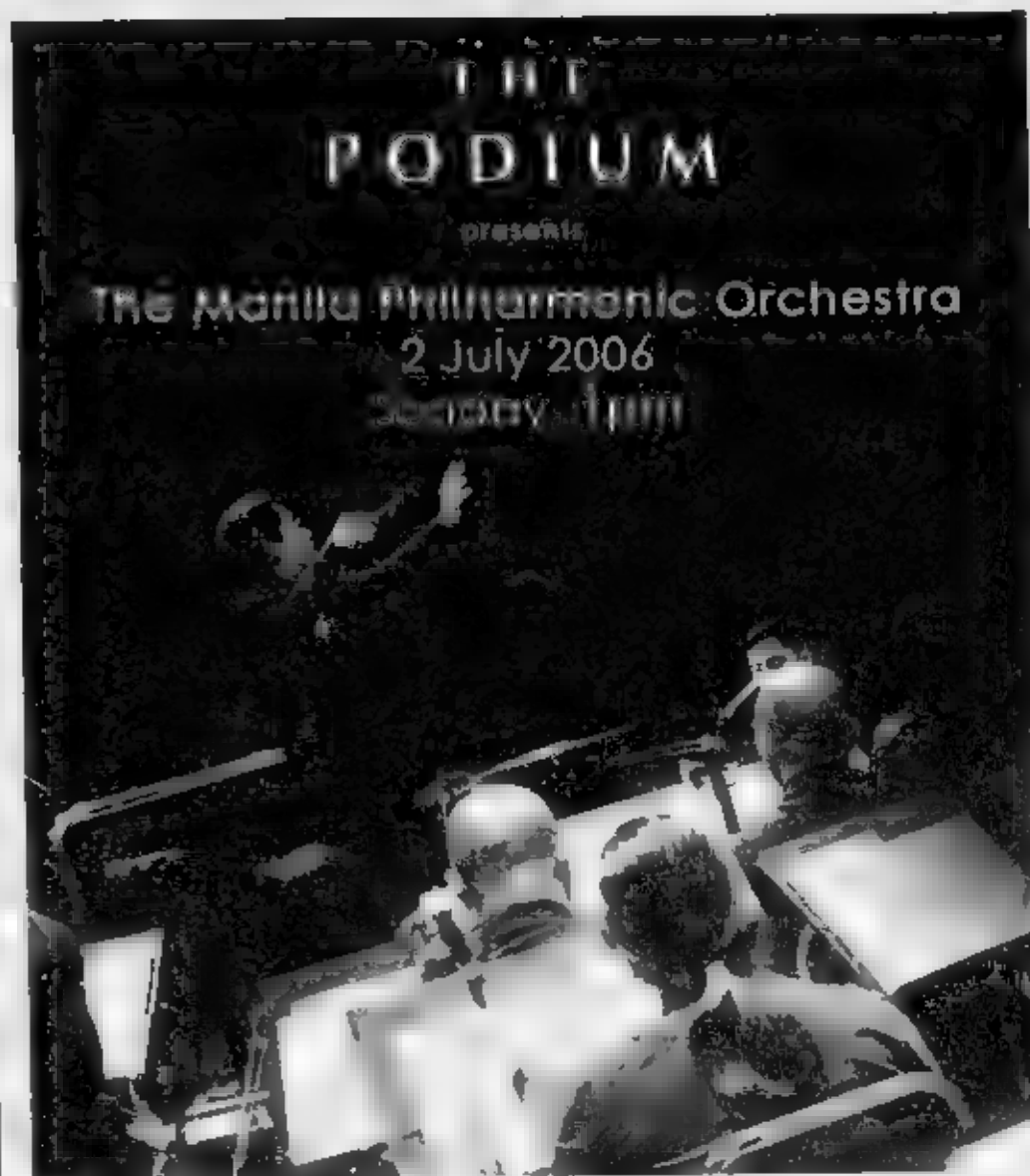
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GINA PAREÑO



JOJI ALONSO

Int'l paparazzi eye RP actress

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS GINA PAREÑO, director Jeffrey Jeturian and lawyer-film producer Joji Alonso—in Russia as representatives of "Kubrador (the Bet Collector)" in this year's Moscow International Film Festival—were the stars of an international press conference following the movie's screening on June 27.

"Kubrador," produced by MLR Films, is competing for Best Picture against 16 other entries from France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Israel and Japan, among others. The festival, which opened on June 23, ends today.

"It went really well," Alonso, in a text message to INQUIRER En

tertainment, said of the press con. "The media and critics raved about the film and Gina. Ang dami na n'yung paparazzi (sic)."

Gina is competing for the Best Actress Award with British actress Julie Walters and Hollywood's Monica Bellucci and Salma Hayek.

Alonso said questions about Gina's acting background were asked during the conference. "They were also interested in finding out how we plan to recoup the [money] we had shelled out [for 'Kubrador'], since it's not a commercial film."

The producer described the festival opening ceremony as "a simple blue carpet event." She said Pareño wore a blue terno "and looked exquisite."

During the rites, Alonso reported, the selection committee announced that it was abiding by "the principles of cultures, variety of names, genres and ideas."

The Philippine delegation is scheduled to return on July 5.

"For fun, we all went sightseeing," the producer said. "We visited places like the Red Square, Arbat, Kremlin, St. Petersburg and Hermitage."

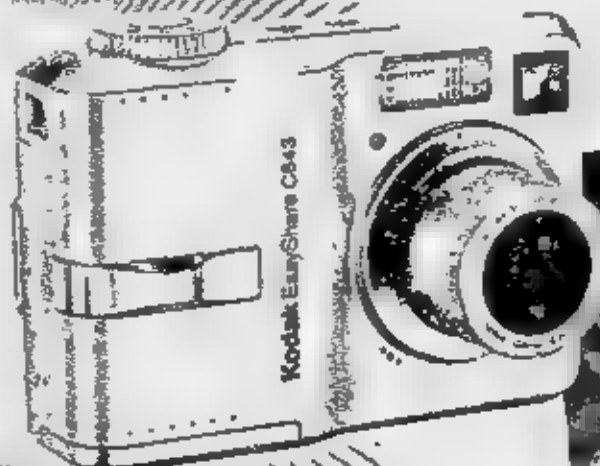


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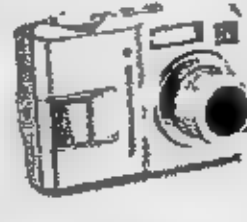
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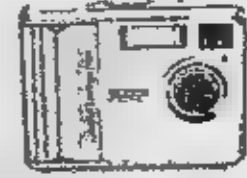
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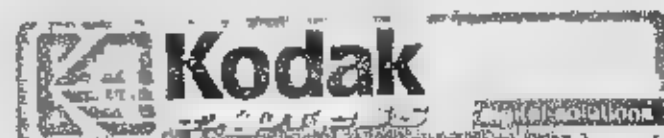
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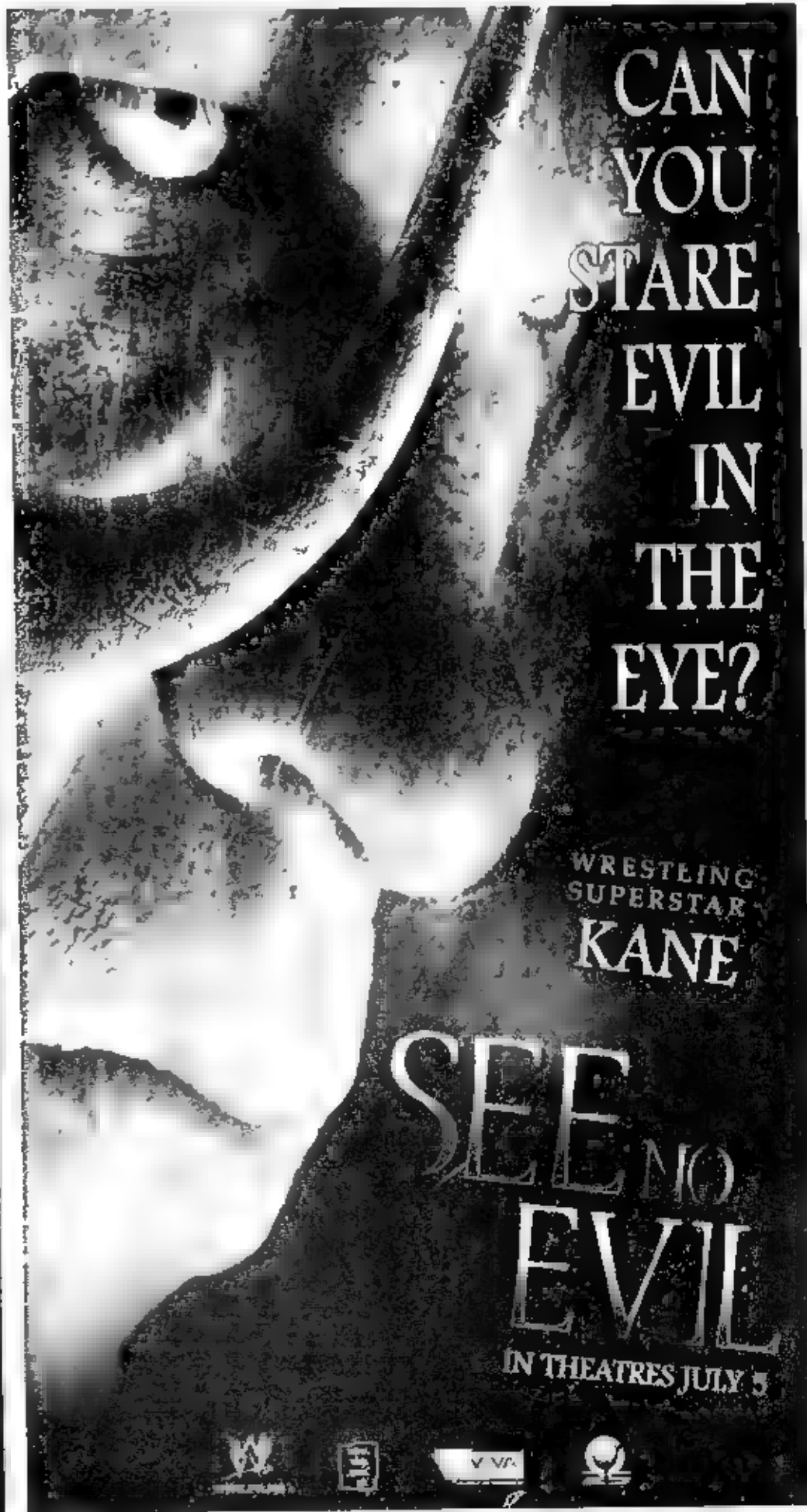
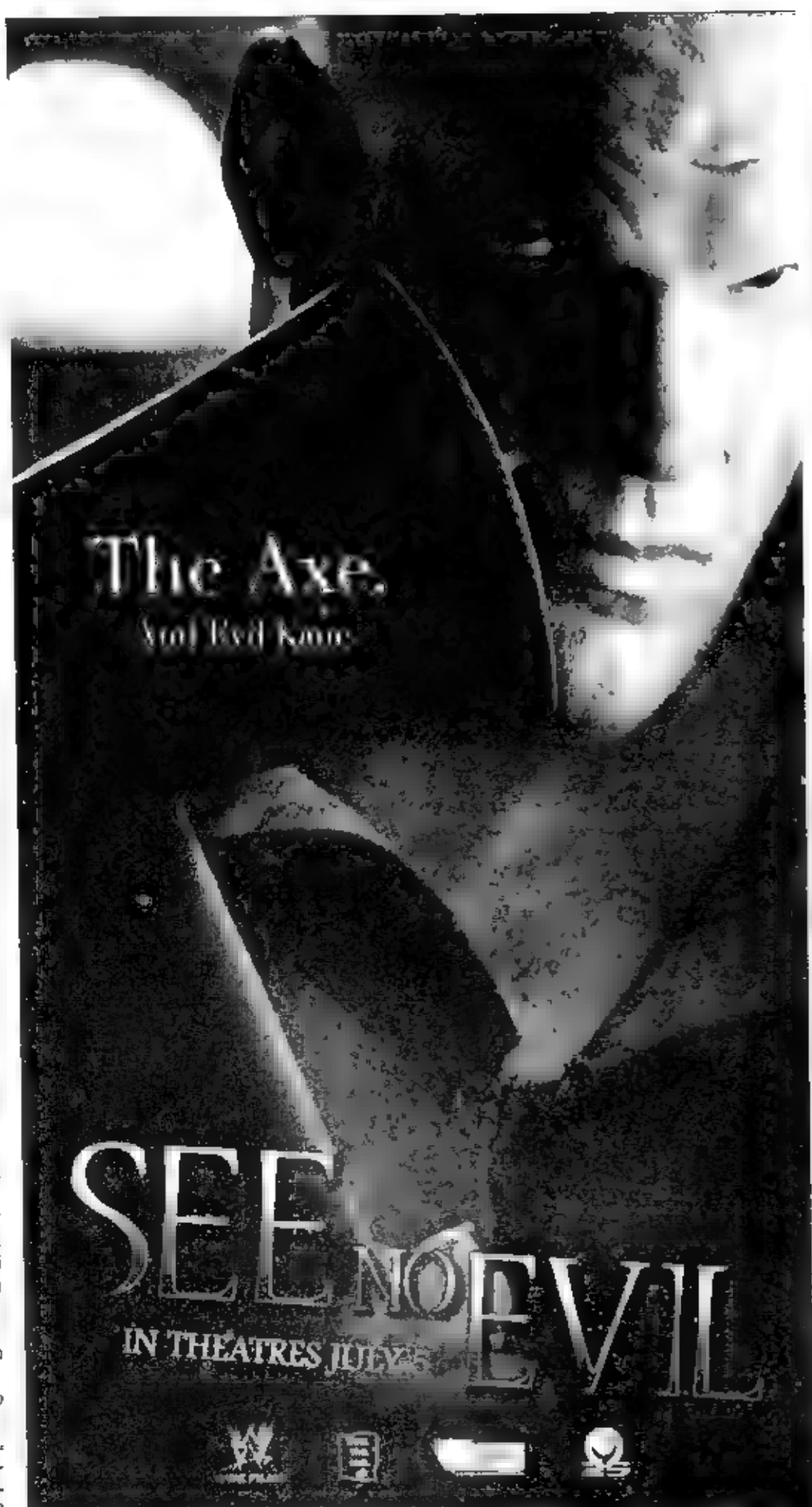
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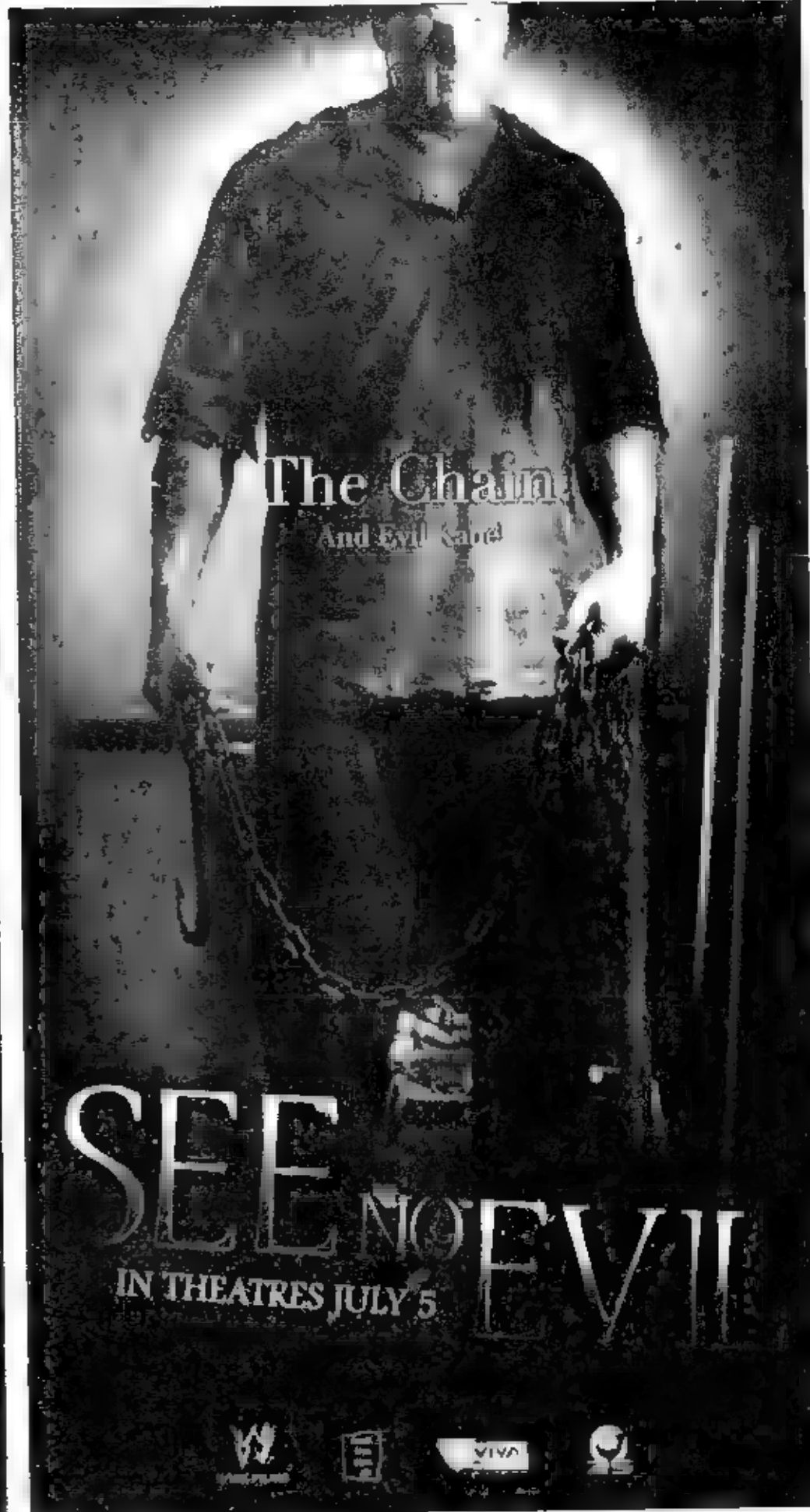
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House-hunting heartthrobs



PILITA Corrales

THESE LOOK-ALIKE HEARTTHROBS ARE reportedly house-hunting. Why do they want to be housemates?

Are you on drugs?

John Prats has a question for rumor-mongers who say he dated comedian Ai-Ai de las Alas: "Addict ba kayo?"

Rustom's baby

Keana Reeves was heard on television announcing that she would like to have Rustom Padilla's baby. She didn't say how.

News 'divas'

ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez calls Maria Ressa, Luchi Cruz-Valdez and Charie Villa his "news divas" because, he says, "They're diva-tating."

Please, not yet

Pilita Corrales reportedly got spooked when the Davao-bound plane she took on June 25 experienced turbulence and dipped twice.

A witness said the singer grabbed the arm of her seat mate, saying, "Ryan [Cayabyab], I don't want to go yet. I don't want to go yet."

'Awit' tonight

Regine Velasquez sang a medley of Gary V-

RUSHES



TOMMY Lee

lenciano and Martin Nievera hits during the last recent 19th Awit Awards. Watch the telecast on MTV tonight at 8.

A bedtime story

M. Night Shyamalan says his "Lady in the Water" began as an impromptu bedtime story he invented for his two young daughters. "The way I tell stories to my kids is very freeform—whatever pops into my head and comes out of my mouth," he says.

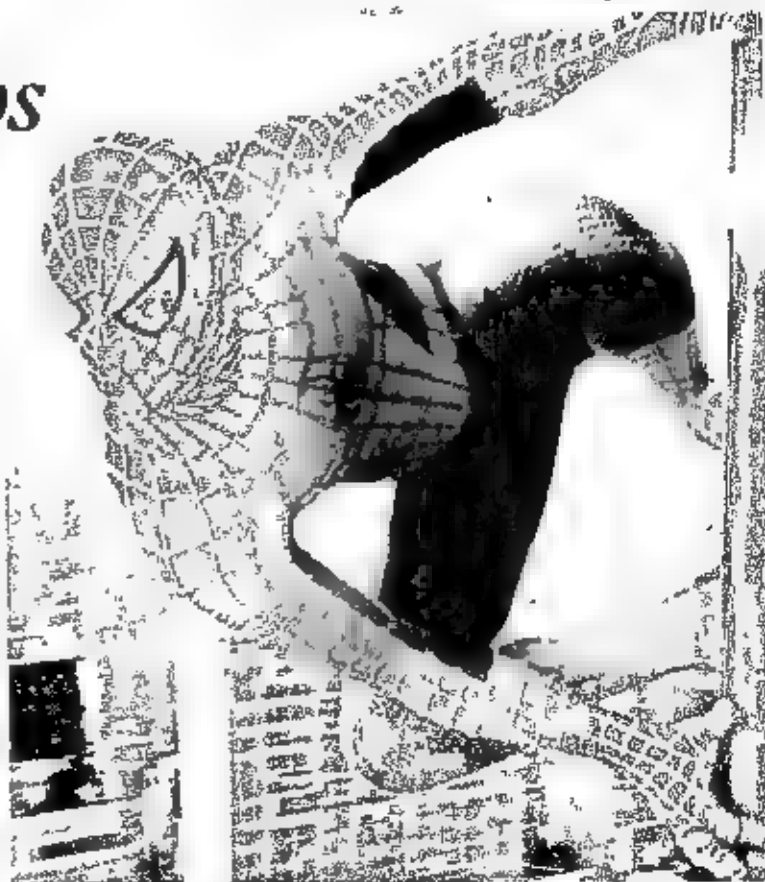
One night, what came out was, "Do you know that someone lives under our pool?"

Night continues: "It developed into this kind of odyssey. There was something ... that made me want to tell it every night, and keep it going."

The girls have not slept since. Kidding.



M. NIGHT Shyamalan and Paul Giamatti, star of "Lady in the Water"



Welcome Supernova

Motley Crue's Tommy Lee.

Guns 'n' Roses' Gilby Clarke.

Metallica's Jason Newsted—three rock legends,

giants of their time, looking

for a lead singer via a worldwide search.

"Rock Star Supernova" on

Star World comes hot in the

heels of last year's hit, "Rock

Star: INXS" starting this week,

with 15 contestants competing for

13 weeks.

A two-part debut airs 7:30 a.m. live

on Thursday, July 6, prime time at 8

p.m.; and July 7 at 9 a.m. live, prime time

at 9 p.m.

Superman vs Spider-Man

Los Angeles—Superman beat Batman at

the box office. But he was only half as strong

as Spider-Man.

"Superman Returns" took in \$21.04 million

on opening day, making it No. 8 on the all-

time list of movies that debuted on a Wednes-

day, according to distributor Warner Bros. The

No. 1 Wednesday premiere was for "Spider-

Man 2," which took in \$40.4 million in its first

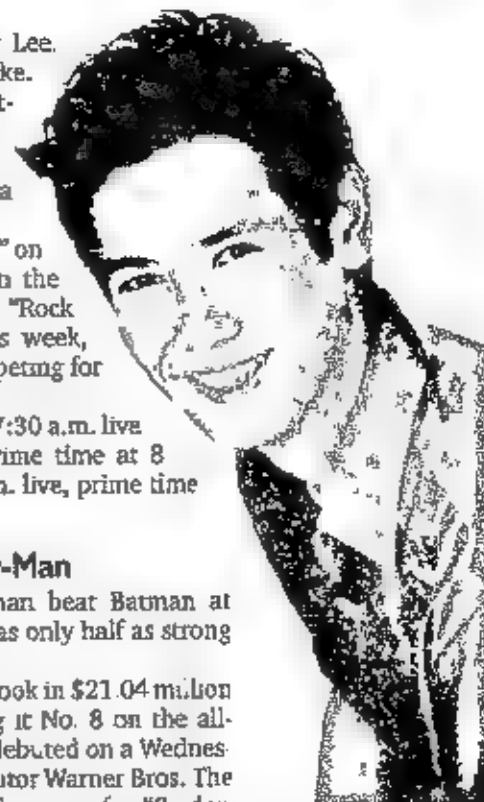
day just before the Fourth of July holiday in

2004. In Manila, "Superman Returns" opened

Wednesday with a nationwide gross of P21.76

million, according to Francis Soliven, Warner

Bros. Philippines general manager.



JOHN Prats

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by Cesar Evangelista Buendia
starring Cedric Jose, Meila Romero,
Michael de Mesa, Jaclyn Jose
@ 5:30p.m, July 3

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

July 3 - 7, 2006

@ TEATRO MARIKINA

Sta. Elena Marikina City

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by Cesar Evangelista Buendia

MAGNIFICO
by Maryo J. de los Reyes

MGA MUNTING TINIG
by Gil Portes

ANAK
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ABAKADA INA
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Economics of flying high with butterflies

By Frank Cinatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY —ATLEY CHAMOK DELICATELY unwraps dozens of triangle-shaped papers containing common egg fly butterfly species from Marinduque. The butterflies, with black wings and huge blue and white spots, were momentarily dazed as Chamok transferred them to a plate of cotton soaked with honey.

"The butterflies have to be brought out within two days or else they will all die," Chamok says.

Getting these butterflies from the island province on the other side of Luzon is only one of the few hazards of the butterfly trade.

Chamok's employer, Macky Maceda, says one should be willing to shell out from P500,000 to P1 million to get hundreds of butterflies into a park.

Reliving that elusive childhood memory of having butterflies resting on one's hand is indeed expensive, says Maceda, who is engaged in establishing butterfly parks all over the country.

He owns the Boracay Butterfly Farm at the Boracay Regency Beach Resort near Boat Station 2 in the island resort. He manages the Camp John Hay butterfly sanctuary in Baguio City and is now finishing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's butterfly house in the governor's "Baluarte" compound here.

Maceda says the butterfly industry is a sunrise industry and he is establishing his niche in building butterfly farms.

"Butterfly houses are very popular in Europe and I hope the Philippines would catch up," he says.

Marinduque's breeders have cornered about 85 percent of the country's butterfly and pupa exports.

Many of these are bought to refurbish the butterfly houses in England, Spain, The Netherlands and the United States, Maceda says.

But the local demand is equally important, he adds.

Other than the butterfly houses, he says he also supplies butterflies in wedding receptions.

"We don't know if bird flu has something to do with it but releasing butterflies instead of doves has become the recent rage. It all started with the wedding of [actors] Sunshine Cruz and Cesar Montano," he says.

The favorite butterfly species released by couples and their guests is the woodnymph.

Maceda says a woodnymph costs P60.

A good thing about butterflies is that the dead don't go to waste, Maceda would have them framed individually or in tandem.

Maceda is an environmental engineer affiliated with the Fil-Estate Group in 2001 when he chanced upon an article on the butterfly breeders of Marinduque in a business magazine.

He researched on the butterfly industry and decided to stick it out in butterfly houses.

He says the Camp John Hay butterfly sanctuary, which charges P40 per person, is the most lucrative, followed by the Boracay But-

terfly Farm, which charges P60.

Singson decided to open his butterfly house for free.

Maceda says an owner does not need to fill up a cage with butterflies.

"The rule of thumb is one butterfly per

square foot," he says.

So there could be as many as 200 to 300 in an average butterfly house.

Although the Philippines has the most number of butterfly species in the world, Maceda says breeders like him only have



BUTTERFLIES at the garden sip on honey.

eight to nine breeds that could be conveniently exported.

These are the woodnymph, egg fly, common mormon, clipper, tiger, yellow bird wing, red ace wing and checkered swallow tail.

Each of these species has its own host plant that the caterpillar consumes.

"To have a successful butterfly business, you should have a large plantation of the host plants. The caterpillars are so voracious. Otherwise you have to rely on commercial breeders," Maceda says.

Singson's butterfly house has many flowering plants and has its own defogging system. Strings of ripe mangoes and plates of honey were placed in strategic areas to feed the butterflies.

AyalaLand PREMIER

My son could not stop talking about the rush—he plans to make this his regular weekend sport.

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STRINGS of ripe mangoes are placed in strategic areas at the butterfly garden owned by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to feed the butterflies.



7-month old DM9JaymeSyfu gets shortlisted at Cannes

BARELY 7 MONTHS OLD AND fledgling advertising agency DM9JaymeSyfu, gained finalist status in this year's prestigious Cannes International Advertising Festival. With an entry entitled "White" for client Tower Records, the agency was short listed in the Outdoor category. With over 25,000 total ad entries, this category alone had more than 5,000 ads from all over the world vying for the jury's attention, headed by Lowe Worldwide executive creative director Fernando Vega Olmos. The ad which spoofed the immensely popular Apple iPod ads, ironically promoted Compact Discs instead.

"From the beginning, we set out to be a creative agency," said partner Merilee Jayme. "Thanks to brave clients like Anton, we are quickly seeing this vision come true." Tower Records' chief operations officer Anton Ramos has expressed his delight and congratulated his agency as soon as he found out the great news. The poster and banner campaign was



Jayme Syfu at the opening gala party.

created by one of the agency's multi-awarded teams composed of Eugene Demata, executive creative director, Louise Sotto, associate creative director and writer and Gorge Sinson, art director.

Before getting noticed in Cannes, the small agency's work for Coppertone was also featured in BestAdsonTVC.com and Luerzer's Archive. It's "Paquiao" TVC

for Chicken Mado landed a no. 1 spot as the most recalled TV ad in the Philippines in last week's Media Magazine. DM9 is also behind Smart Telecommunications' funniest TVC to date with "Sadako" for Smart Load and HBC's OHM and "Allure" which have broken records in sales.

As the sister company of DDB worldwide, these achievements truly show the Bernbach spirit: Better Ideas, Better Results.

"Balancing profit with creativity is hard enough" according to partner Alex Syfu. "Doing it when you're 7 months old is almost unthinkable. But this proves that it can be done."

DM9JaymeSyfu is one of only 9 local agencies short listed in a year which by far is the best showing for the country. Joining them are BBDO-Guerrero Ortega, Ogilvy & Mather, Young & Rubicam, TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno, JWT, Y&R, 141 Worldwide Phils and Media-



PAG-IBIG HDMF PARTNERS WITH AIR21

PAG-IBIG HDMF, a premier and globally competitive financial institution and AIR21, your Total Logistics Solutions Provider has joined together with its goal of offering excellent and fast services to its clientele nationwide. The contract signing last May 16, at the Atrium Bldg, Makati City marked the strong partnership between the two companies. With (from left) ar-

chitect Lora B. Rivera, manager, facilities and office services department, Emma Linda Faria, SVP technical support group, lawyer Romero F.S. Quimbo, president and CEO of Pag-ibig Fund, Angelito A. Alvarez, president and COO of Airfreight 2100 inc and Cristina Montalvo, VP for PH Sales, Airfreight 2100 inc, greater efficiency and service will truly be achieved.

YAKULT INAUGURATES YPI-ANNEX BUILDING

Yakult Philippines Inc (YPI) inaugurated its new annex building - an eight storey building located at 1461 F Agoncillo corner Escoda Sts Ermita Manila. The blessing was officiated by Fr Arvin Fullon. Photo shows (from left) Joaquin Chipeco Jr - Calamba Mayor, Victory R. Dy Sun - vice chair, Yakult Phils Inc, Alberto R. Dy Sun - president Yakult Phils Inc, Akira Onose, - executive vice president Yakult Phils Inc (partly hid-



den), and Naomasa Tsuritani - managing director, Yakult Honsha Co Ltd Japan

McCann Worldgroup Philippines launch

ERIC E. NHORN, global chief strategy officer of McCann Worldgroup and regional director of McCann Worldgroup Asia Pacific, will be the keynote speaker at the formal launch of McCann Worldgroup Philippines on July 13, at the Makati Shangri-La. Elnhorn will speak on Demand Creation. McCann Worldgroup's new marketing communications philosophy, which is revolutionizing the way businesses are driving top-line growth to more effectively compete in today's marketing environment. More and more companies realize that cutting cost only yields short-term gains, and the only sustainable way to deliver the bottom line is by creating greater demand for one's brands. Demand Creation is a concept that is more greatly attuned to today's demand-driven economy and a world that has become abundant in supply.



ERIC E. NHORN

Alactagrow promo

ALACTAGROW GROWING UP MILK. A product of Mead Johnson presents Lakas Alactagrow, Proud si Mommy sa "Yo", a new raffle promo which runs from May 21 to July 20 this year. At stake are over a million worth in prizes. The raffle is open to mothers who have children ages one to six years old (until July 2006). Mothers may purchase a box of Alactagrow Growing Up Milk (in either 180g, 400g or 800g sizes). Simply remove the cartoon top to be placed in an envelope along with a size 2R picture (minimum size); this can also be a photocopy of picture of their child in a pose which shows "strong bones" and a blank sheet paper with the following details: mother's name, child's name, child's birthday, complete contact address, telephone or contact numbers and signature. These three items should be placed in a white legal size envelope to be dropped in drop boxes at nationwide supermarkets and groceries nationwide. A participant may send as many entries for more chances of winning. For the preliminary draw on June 27, the deadline for submission of entries is on June 18. Non-winning entries for the preliminary draw still have a chance to win in the grand

raffle draw on August 1. Deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw is on July 20.



Hari, Ateneo Fifa World Cup activities

HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES INC (HARI) and the Ateneo Football Center (AFC) bring you the live telecast of the World Cup matches ongoing daily at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan from 9 p.m. onwards until July 9. As part of the month-long festivities, different Hyundai CRDI models will be on display at the Ateneo World Cup venue with campus test drive activities slated on the weekends. Hyundai will also be giving away original FIFA items through raffle and trivia contests during the scheduled programs before and after the matches. This activity aims to raise funds for the Ateneo Football Center for its developmental program for the youth. Season and daily game tickets are available for purchase at the Blue Eagle Gym or contact 426-1201 for details.

SO-EN SIZZLING BORACAY RAFFLE PROMO

Congratulations to all the winners of the recently concluded So-En Sizzling Boracay Raffle Promo participated by SM Department Stores, Robinsons Department Stores, The Landmark, Evar Grand Central and Metro Gaisano Market. The draw was held last May 30 at the So-En corporate office, 299 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Officiating the raffle draw are (from left): account manager Emely Roquitos, HRD manager Ian Montenegro, production



manager Tat Notarte, DTI Representative Nerissa Nera, executive secretary Alvin Lu and sales manager Anthony Marcelino.

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ANGADANAN LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 198.00 sqm. Floor Area: 374.00 sqm. Lot 2 Poblacion Minimum Bid Price: 865,000.00	LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 450.00 sqm. Floor Area: 420.00 sqm. Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion Minimum Bid Price: 8,400,000.00	LOT 23 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 15, E.M. Pasion Subdivision, San Pablo Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00	LOT 34 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 752.00 sqm. Lot 20 E-6, San Jose Norte Minimum Bid Price: 75,000.00	LOT 45 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 178.00 sqm. Lot 20 E-6, Dist 3 Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00	LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 9,030.00 sqm. Floor Area: 179.00 sqm. Lot 388-A, B.D. 6F Provincial Rd. Bessie, Ranao Minimum Bid Price: 2,315,000.00
LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 6,919.00 sqm. Floor Area: 90.00 sqm. Lot 1605, Cansangin Minimum Bid Price: 1,912,000.00	LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 280.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eulandia Ave. Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 423,000.00	LOT 24 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 16, E.M. Pasion Subd., San Pablo Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00	LOT 35 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 400.00 sqm. Lot 2005-C, Abot Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00	LOT 46 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 173.00 sqm. Lot 27 Bld 2, Dist 3 Minimum Bid Price: 185,000.00	LOT 55 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 240.00 sqm. Lot 5 Bld 11, Vraplor Bantug, Bantug Minimum Bid Price: 135,000.00
LOT 3 - AGRICULTURE Lot Area: 25,000.00 sqm. Lot 3-C-3-Vale Dominga, Marikina Minimum Bid Price: 328,000.00	LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 2000 sqm. Lot 8-B-E, Lot 9-B-F-3-S-3-Naz. Road, Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 6,343,000.00	LOT 25 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 21, E.M. Pasion Subdivision, San Pablo Minimum Bid Price: 240,000.00	LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 5,670.00 sqm. Lot 7597-B, Salero Norte Minimum Bid Price: 418,000.00	LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 298.00 sqm. Floor Area: 56.00 sqm. Lot 5455-B Marikina Road, Marikina Minimum Bid Price: 555,000.00	LOT 56 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 378.00 sqm. Lot 8227-Cor. M. Tagapoc & G. Del Pilar Sts., Vito, Ranao Minimum Bid Price: 186,000.00
LOT 4 - AGRICULTURE Lot Area: 48,000.00 sqm. Lot 3-B-3-Vale Dominga, Marikina Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00	LOT 15 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,497 sqm. Lot 1-3-A-5-Naz. Road, Pinarra (Formerly Marikina) Minimum Bid Price: 2,340,000.00	LOT 26 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 23, E.M. Pasion Subd., San Pablo Minimum Bid Price: 412,000.00	LOT 37 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 544.00 sqm. Lot 90, Falcas Subd., Bantug (Formerly Vito) Minimum Bid Price: 218,000.00	LOT 48 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,343.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eulandia Ave. Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00	LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,182.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eulandia Ave. Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 285,000.00
LOT 5 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 315.00 sqm. Lot 4, Cor. Provincial Rd. & Cacer Sts., Bagon Lina, Sta Rita Minimum Bid Price: 453,000.00	LOT 16 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,525.00 sqm. Lot 8-B-5-B-1-C Cabanatuan Minimum Bid Price: 285,000.00	LOT 27 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 424.00 sqm. Lot 424-C, Filer Linao Estate Minimum Bid Price: 184,000.00	LOT 38 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 534.00 sqm. Lot 91, Falcas Subd., Bantug (Formerly Vito) Minimum Bid Price: 218,000.00	LOT 49 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 390.00 sqm. Lot 752-E-6-A Palar Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00	LOT 58 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 319.75 sqm. Bantug Minimum Bid Price: 1,005,000.00
LOT 6 - AGRICULTURE Lot Area: 1,525.00 sqm. Lot 4-Cacer Sts., Bagon Lina, Sta Rita Minimum Bid Price: 285,000.00	LOT 17 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 354.00 sqm. Lot 44 Cacer Minimum Bid Price: 73,000.00	LOT 28 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 388.00 sqm. Lot 3-A, Bld 3 Calanaga 2nd Minimum Bid Price: 215,000.00	LOT 39 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 544.00 sqm. Lot 93, Falcas Subd., Bantug (Formerly Vito) Minimum Bid Price: 140,000.00	LOT 50 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 380.00 sqm. Lot 752-E-6-B Palar Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00	LOT 59 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 275.00 sqm. Lot 2029-A-Prop. Rd., Sta Rita Minimum Bid Price: 705,000.00
LOT 7 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,190.00 sqm. Lot 2219-A, Bantog of Cacer, Cacer Minimum Bid Price: 74,000.00	LOT 18 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 315.00 sqm. Lot 3-A-1-Eulandia Ave. Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 1,621,000.00	LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 233.00 sqm. Floor Area: 191.00 sqm. Lot 5, Bld 7 P. Apostol St., Calanaga 2nd Minimum Bid Price: 215,000.00	LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,836 sqm. Floor Area: 119.00 sqm. Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Marikina Sur Minimum Bid Price: 629,500.00	LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,084.00 sqm. Floor Area: 186.00 sqm. Lot 257 District 1 Minimum Bid Price: 485,000.00	LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 340.00 sqm. Floor Area: 281.00 sqm. Lot 2023-C, Calanaga, Bantug Minimum Bid Price: 840,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 200.00 sqm. Floor Area: 72.00 sqm. Lot 1-B-2 Cabanatuan Minimum Bid Price: 468,000.00	LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 222.00 sqm. Floor Area: 71.00 sqm. Lot 589-B Along Provincial Rd., San Jose Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00	LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 102.00 sqm. Lot 7136-A Almaguin 2nd Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00	LOT 41 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm. Lot 28 Victoria (Bldg Data Palarra) Minimum Bid Price: 120,000.00	LOT 52 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,057.00 sqm. Floor Area: 282.00 sqm. Lot 257 District 1 Minimum Bid Price: 485,000.00	LOT 61 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 447.00 sqm. Lot 447 Bldg Rd. Palarra, Bantug Minimum Bid Price: 1,005,000.00
LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 133.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-2 Cabanatuan Minimum Bid Price: 226,000.00	LOT 20 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,195.00 sqm. Lot 1-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Pinarra, Delfin Albano, Marikina Minimum Bid Price: 202,000.00	LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 474 sqm. Floor Area: 58.00 sqm. Lot 38-4, Bld 30 Palarra St., Greenhills Subd., Bantug Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00	LOT 42 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,888.00 sqm. Lot 6 Victoria (Bldg Data Palarra) Minimum Bid Price: 120,000.00	LOT 53 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 1,368.00 sqm. Lot 2663 Marikina Road Bldg Linao Minimum Bid Price: 478,000.00	LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,843.00 sqm. Lot 156-C, Bldg Linao Minimum Bid Price: 1,005,000.00
LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 228.00 sqm. Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eulandia Ave. Pinarra Minimum Bid Price: 591,000.00	LOT 21 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 192.00 sqm. Floor Area: 210.00 sqm. Lot 500-A & 500-B Along Provincial Road, San Jose Minimum Bid Price: 1,621,000.00	LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 122.00 sqm. Floor Area: 237.00 sqm. Lot 2-A-2 Capital Ave Calanaga 2nd Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00	LOT 43 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 29,000.00 sqm. Lot 3342-B, Bldg Solon Minimum Bid Price: 365,000.00	LOT 54 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 222.00 sqm. Lot 2412-C San Pedro Minimum Bid Price: 154,000.00	LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,932.00 sqm. Floor Area: 181.00 sqm. Lot 1-2, 2-B-4-4-E-G-B-1 Eulandia Ave. Pinarra (Formerly Vito) Minimum Bid Price: 4,000,000.00
LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 362.00 sqm. Lot 19, Solon Minimum Bid Price: 87,000.00	LOT 22 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 300.00 sqm. Lot 131-A-3-3-Naz. Road, Combo 1 Minimum Bid Price: 200,000.00	LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,818.00 sqm. Lot 1031-A-3-3-Naz. Road, Combo 1 Minimum Bid Price: 200,000.00	LOT 44 - AGRICULTURE Lot Area: 324.00 sqm. Lot 7 Bld 4 Dist 3 Minimum Bid Price: 165,000.00	LOT 55 - VACANT LOT Lot Area: 222.00 sqm. Lot 2412-C San Pedro Minimum Bid Price: 154,000.00	LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT Lot Area: 1,851+100+2,451 sqm. Floor Area: 160.00 sqm. Lot 4-K & 4-L, Bldg Rd. Cabanatuan, San Miguel Minimum Bid Price: 4,000,000.00

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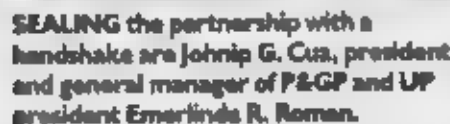
Tintin and Antonia Babao for Robby Rabbit

TINTIN AND ANTONIA Bersola Babao recently signed as Robby Rabbit's new product endorsers. Tintin was the top-of-mind choice of Characters Unlimited (makers and distributor of Robby Rabbit) because of their belief that she is truly a hands-on mom and will only give the best to her child - from childhood to her growing up years. Watch out for her series of exciting and colorful events lined up for this year as Characters Unlimited intensifies their marketing and advertising activities. Robby Rabbit products are available at Characters Unlimited branches in Tutuban Center Mall 1, Manila; Festival Supermall, Alabang; Riverbanks Mall, Marikina; Magic Star Mall, Tarlac and a wholesale outlet in #545 Juan Luna Street, Binondo Manila; All leading department stores nationwide. For more information you can text to 0917-88ROBBY (8876222) or e-mail at inquiry@robbyrabbit.com.ph.

Indulge with the King Sampler at Burger King

BARKADAS UNITE! THE BURGER KING KING Sampler includes the following entrees: Whopper Jr. with Cheese, Chicken Tenders Sandwich with Cheese, 5-pc. Chicken Tenders with the following sides: onion rings and golden French fries and three drinks of your choice at a surprisingly affordable P250. For the drinks, have it your way with any of these choices: soft drinks (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Sarsil), Hi-C Apple and Lipton ice tea. Upsize options also apply, just add P9. So, what are you waiting for? Get your friends, family and officemates now and troop to Burger King and sample this King-sized spread. If you're looking for a filling "pasalubong" for the family, the King Sampler will surely agree with everyone's appetite. This offer is valid for dine-in, drive-thru and take out. For other fire-grilled burgers, check out the 30 Burger King restaurants.





Team HSBC consisted of Timm Conzon, Coiby de Leon, Eric Ferreos, Francis Gaspar, Kristine de Castro, Marlon Sison, Nilo Casocot, Rex Balacan, Vince Mananhang and Joey Zaballero.

⁸ Hard to miss was the booth of LG Mo-



Not to be outdone in the design field is American firm Motorola, which drew hordes of visitors to its booth because of the gigantic poster of world famous footballer David Beckham, which the telecommunications company recently

The Ultra Edition 6.9 (X820) leads the handset pack, boasting the world's thinnest profile of only 6.9 mm, about as thick as a 100-page fashion magazine.



PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS" BASIS. DIMENSIONS AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO OPEN HOUSES AND SHOWINGS.



LIBERTY Agapay with her sweet stuff. Right, a photo of "tinagaktak," a sweet crispy delicacy made of ground rice.

Sunday BIZ

What this woman did with her P198

Mother of four starts a business from a family tradition she hated



By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

DIPOLOG CITY—WHAT CAN you buy with P198? Not much these days. But for Liberty Agapay, it was just what she needed to start her own business more than eight years ago.

Hardly making ends meet, then 25-year-old Liberty thought of a business that she could do at home while taking care of her two very young kids. She had just given birth to her and common-law husband Gerry Ontalan's second child.

With another mouth to feed, Liberty could hardly imagine how to budget the meager earnings of Gerry who was then working as a carpenter in Dipolog City and the nearby areas.

"Life was so hard even when we only had two kids. I had to think of something to help my husband," shares Liberty, who

has since given birth to two more children.

She had always wanted to do a home-based business. With no fixed monthly income for the family, getting someone else to take care of the Ontalan kids was out of question. But what business would allow her to stay home? And where could she possibly source her start-up capital?

Resolved to help her husband get their young family out of poverty, Liberty thought of trying to do what she knows best—make and sell her family's best-kept tradition of "tinagaktak," a sweet crispy delicacy made of ground rice.

"Tinagaktak has been passed on in our family from generation to generation. By force, I learned how to cook it from my mother," Liberty quips in Cebuano. She practically grew up selling tinagaktak. Yet, Liberty muses, she hated it.

"It's quite laborious. I really hated it when my mother would ask me to grind the rice and mix the ingredients. But as a daughter, I had to obey her," she says.

Little did Liberty know that the very chore she hated in her younger years would turn out to be the saving grace for her own growing family—now composed of herself, hubby Gerry, Geraldine, 11; Janelle Mae, 8; Gerel Jay, 5 and John, 2.

"I didn't know what else to do, so I decided to start with what I knew best. I have secret ingredients that make my tinagaktak stand out," Liberty enthuses.

And so with her simple business plan in mind but a great determination to succeed, Liberty gathered all the courage to talk to the owner of the neighborhood store and asked if she could, by any chance, be allowed to loan a few kilos of rice, edible oil, some eggs and sugar.

"I explained that I wanted to help augment my husband's income by starting my own business. Those ingredients were all I needed to start," Liberty shares. Thankfully, the gracious owner allowed her to purchase the ingredients, payable when able.

Out of the loaned ingredients, the aspiring tinagaktak entrepreneur managed to make 200 pieces of the delicacy. Next, she set out for the big city with great expectation she would succeed.

Plying the streets of Dipolog and going from office to office, she would offer her product just to anybody who cared to buy. By the end of the day, Liberty happily sold everything.

Indeed, Liberty was ecstatic. She made a good profit margin and it was only her first try. As she was about to go home, another surprise came. An employee of the provincial capitol was celebrating her birthday and ordered a big bulk.

The bulk order was followed by another, and another, and yet another until in a few months time, Liberty's husband Gerry, had to stop working to help her in the business.

As their business grew, so did the need for capitalization. They had to buy equipment like a gas range and big frying pans to keep up with the orders.

"We realized we needed more capital. While our business was picking up, we did not know how or where to source the much-needed capital," Liberty laments.

In 2004, Liberty heard of Taysa sa Kauswagan Inc. (TSKI), a micro-finance institution that offered loan facilities to micro-entrepreneurs like her. With business expansion in mind, Liberty availed herself of a P3,000 loan.

The loan enabled Liberty and husband Gerry to increase production. In due time, they were able to save up to buy the equip-

ment they needed. Because they had been good payors, Liberty and her husband continually enjoyed fresh loans to increase their capitalization.

"Since I was already peddling tinagaktak for about seven years, orders kept on increasing. We had to cope up with it or else we would lose our clients," says Liberty, who by now, had learned to do her own style of marketing.

Slowly but surely, Liberty and her husband kept on expanding their business. On good days, the couple could earn P12,000 per week—a big leap from what they were earning seven years ago. They even managed to buy their own house and lot, thanks to their earnings from tinagaktak.

Liberty's tinagaktak has become so popular that it is now a staple in Dipolog City's Pasalubong Center.

"We are so grateful to TSKI for trusting us. If not for the break they gave us, we would not have been able to reach this far," says Liberty.

Despite the success of her business, the "tinagaktak magnate," as some call her, has far greater dreams.

While balikbayans and visitors never leave Dipolog without her homemade delicacy, Liberty hopes to expand her market to Manila and even abroad.

"That is our long-term plan—to bring our product out of Dipolog," she says.

And with strong determination, hardwork and a little help from TSKI, no doubt Liberty will soon be able to realize the dream.

Office workers get hands dirty

By Joey Zaballero
Contributor

I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER the day when the news of the latest Leyte landslide came out. I was glued to the television watching the spotty coverage of people struggling against the mud in an effort to rescue survivors. I remember telling my wife what a tragedy this was and I remember thinking to myself that I wish I could do more than just rummage through my cabinet to see what I could donate for the inevitable aid drive that was to follow.

True enough, aid drives were organized at all levels, from local churches to corporate donations and having donated, I felt that I had done my job. That was until several weeks after when I received an internal memo addressed to all staff of HSBC, the bank that I work for. At first it didn't seem very different from the other corporate social responsibility projects that the bank has sponsored.

HSBC has always been involved in environmental and social projects from saving dugongs in Palawan to building multimedia learning centers for public elementary schools. More recently however, the bank was also involved in a different kind of social project, ones organized by Gawad Kalinga and the latest call for volunteers was slightly different from the previous projects HSBC was involved in.

HSBC has supported Gawad Kalinga by adopting two sites, one in Imus Cavite and another in General Tinio Nueva Ecija for 100 homes. They would send bus loads of volunteers to try their hand at good old fashioned house building for a day, a mean feat for otherwise office bound and keyboard tapping office workers.

This latest call for help was called the Gawad Kalinga IMB (short for Isang Milyong Bayani) Bayani Challenge. The objective was simple enough, go to the site and build a house for the Leyte landslide survivors. I could tell this was not your usual volunteer job.

For one it would span a period of 6 days, no going home the next



TEAM HSBC and their build partners Team Butuan

day to relax at a spa and allow your aching body to recover. The location would not be in Metro Manila or its outskirts as this project was situated in Leyte close to what the locals called the tragic ground zero of the Leyte landslide. The objective was to help build houses for the landslide survivors. The call for help was easy to answer. HSBC would provide the materials and cover all the costs of the volunteers including vacation leave for all volunteers. But for all nine volunteers who did, the chance to help out was the main draw.

Before I knew it and after a flight to Cebu, a two-hour ferry ride to Hilongos and another two-hour land trip to St. Bernard, me and my fellow volunteers from HSBC found ourselves at what would be our home for the next six days—a bare meadow behind what would be future site of the houses. The briefing did say we should bring tents and sleeping bags but when you are actually at the site thinking about the next few days you get the creeping feeling that one may have bitten off more than one could chew. Not to be fazed, we put up our tents and organized our team.

The Bayani Challenge was simple enough—organize yourselves into teams of 15 and work on two set-ups. The first set-up was a bare lot which we had to dig the foundations and build a seven-layer wall of hollow blocks. Seven layers only since I don't think they trusted us to build anything higher—they didn't want the survivors to undergo any more stressful events such as an unstable house I assume.

The second set-up consisted of a semi finished house, basically the walls and the roof beams were in place and for this one the teams were tasked to basically finish the house—fill the foundation, lay down the cement floor, smoothen the rough hollow block walls,

paint the house and install the roof.

The project management side of our white collar brain was confident. This was going to be a push over we thought.

The coming days however proved otherwise and it did not take us long to realize this fact. Teamed up with members of our sister company, HSBC HDPE who had spare volunteers, we headed off to set-up one. Within 30 minutes of starting the dig for the foundation, I was sweating, getting thirsty and the progress I was making was minimal. It was a good shot in the arm, all of us suddenly realized, that we were no longer in the confines of our office cubicle where work was defined by how much paper we were able to process from our inboxes/intrays. This time work was defined by the limits of our physical strengths and our determination to get things done. Unfortunately, there is a certain amount of building skills that would also be involved when putting up a house and none of us had any. And so for a while our determination and strength carried us forward. Luckily digging the trench for the foundation of the walls only required us to do this in a straight line and we could handle that. Even getting the raw materials, cement, gravel, hollow blocks and sand was something we could handle even though this was a struggle in its own right. The human chains we used in our Metro Manila builds where we had bus loads of HSBC volunteers had now dwindled down to 15 people and so we transformed ourselves to human pack mules.

Although we had a build marshal to guide us through our tasks, we could see our progress was dismal but help I seemed, was not too far away. As a matter of fact, help was right next door with the team building the house next to us. Team Barangay Concepcion

Burwayang Bato as a group of volunteers that came from Metro Manila too.

Being Gawad Kalinga housing recipients themselves, they make it a point to volunteer for GK builds in a form of payback but what made this group more amazing was that they had come overland, a two-day trip, to participate. More importantly, to us at that point in time, they had more than enough of the skills we lacked and through the help of their team leader, Tito Dolphy, they guided us with the tasks at hand.

All of a sudden Team HSBC was rejuvenated and it looked like we were back on track in actually achieving our objectives. This bayanihan spirit was even more evident in Day 2 when the organizers lined up the team from those that made the most progress to the team that made the least and swapped team members to assist in each other's efforts. We were happy to be in the middle of this ranking and as luck would have it the team that we were coupled with was another skilled one in building houses. Team Butuan, from Mindanao, also had members in it that were GK recipients but for the most part, the team members were volunteers. Speaking more Visaya than Tagalog didn't hamper our progress and strangely enough provided for great conversation. They taught us the proper way to mix cement, straighten our otherwise crooked walls and provided great camaraderie.

By the end of the build, Team HSBC, with help from our neighbors and team Butuan, managed a decent showing. Our set-up 1 was completely finished and our set-up 2 had significant improvements done to it by the time we had finished, which made our build marshal, who would have to finish the house, quite happy.

On our last night, the teams had a chance to say goodbye to each other during the farewell party. Before the festivities however, a group of people took to the stage and presented themselves. Although the spokesman spoke in Visaya, the tagalog speakers could make out a few of his words and our newly found visayan friends filled in the blanks. He had words describing a beautiful barangay that had everything going for it. He described how it flourished with rice and fishing providing the people a means of livelihood and how life was good. And how all of

OFFICE/83



GIGI Ngui

Setting the 'gold' standard

GIGI NGUI OF GOLDTECH IS ONE distributor who takes pride in getting her hands "dirty". That is, getting involved in every facet of her office furniture/IT business. "The devil is in the details as the saying goes," quips Gigi. Nonetheless, I'm also a firm believer in empowering my people through delegation. I know when to let go and let them shine.

This overriding management philosophy of Goldtech has become its most potent arsenal in securing an enviable niche in the fiercely competitive distributorship field. From a mere three-man enterprise involved in the assembly and sale of office furniture/equipment in 1990, the company has grown to a 120-strong well-trained and dynamic employees today.

"Diversifying holds the key to Goldtech's sustained growth over the years. Our initial foray into the burgeoning IT business in the early '90s was a well-paid gamble," Gigi recounts. Goldtech's importation and distribution of chassis (computer case) became so successful that the company began forging partnerships with like Samsung Electronics, an acknowledged global leader in digital media and convergence technology. Moreover, applying Goldtech's trusted management and operations style cum diversifying formulas in 1997 saw the growth of Silya, Mesa, Arbp, distributing well-crafted office furniture and partitions.

Goldtech's office in 464 Lt. Atienza St. San Juan, Metro Manila does not only house its office furniture line; it also carries the latest premium computer devices and gadgets. The store is a must-stop for the certified "techie." "From a techie scale of one-to-ten, I rate myself an eight—knowledgeable yet still learning," Gigi reveals. "While I can't live without my cellphone and laptop, I must say that I love all the products that we sell in Goldtech."

With a projected 20 percent growth for 2006, Goldtech is prepared to weather its ample share of daily challenges: cutthroat competition, price wars, and obsolescence, service and client complaints. "Like a real pro, our team face them with utmost patience, aggressiveness, courtesy and professionalism," Gigi, VP-Sales of Goldtech, shares.

One of Goldtech's key success factors is to ensure that its dealers get the proper logistical support to make sure its dealers sell as much Samsung products as they can. She gives credit to their loyal client base that are always supporting them and who have stuck with them through thick and thin. "I partly owe what little success I have to our dealers, many so who have become my close friends".

The store has another ace in the way Gigi interacts with their customers, as well as brainstorming and even argues with her staff. "I am a people person," she volunteers. "I al-

SETTING/83

Sunday LIFESTYLE

ans foodbatic inquirer life n

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

(Globe) and 386 (Smart)

Manila braces for 'Queer' invasion

They're here, they're queer, and you better get used to it

AYALA MALLS IS bringing the complete cast of the hit reality TV show, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," to Manila on July 20-22.

In the show, five gay stylists choose a style-deficient straight guy and transform him into a charming, smartly dressed, nicely groomed lad.

After five years of reinventing drab men into fab men in their show, the five have become stars in their own right, with legions of fans. They are Carson Kressley, Kyan Douglas, Thom Filicia, Jai Rodriguez and Ted Allen.

Last year, Kyan, the grooming guru, and Thom, the design doctor, came to Manila to share grooming and interior-design tips.

This month, all five hosts of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" are coming to Manila to check out Pinoy men and give them style first-aid.

Kressley, the blond fashionista who coined the word "tsuzh" (to refer to the way a shirt's cuff, a pant's hem, or a waistband is uniquely folded), is easily the most famous.

He has authored a children's tome, "You're Different and That's Super," and the style guide, "Off the Cuff: The Essential Guide for Men and Women Who Love Them," in which Kressley gives guys a step-by-step guide to fashion. He also made a cameo in the Hilary Duff-Heather Locklear starlet, "The Perfect Man."

Good-looking and stylish Kyan Douglas is a specialist in men's skin care and has had extensive training and professional experience in the hair, spa and retail industries. He has worked as a colorist for television and magazine projects, including TLC's "What Not To Wear," "While You Were Out," and "Child Magazine."

Jai Rodriguez is the culture vulture who has appeared in last year's production of "The Producers" and has even essayed the role of the transvestite Angel in "Rent."

But Rodriguez is more popularly known as the guy who dishes out advice on etiquette and social graces on "Queer Eye."

His television and film success has inspired Rodriguez to put up his own cabaret at the XL Lounge in New York City, "Monday Night Twisted Cabaret."

Top designer

Named among House Beautiful's top 100 American designers, Thom Filicia is a designer who blends mass media and interior design. He has won an Emmy nomination for art direction and has established his own interior design company in New York City, Thom Filicia Inc., which specializes in both residential and commercial products. Filicia and TFI designed the United States pavilion for the 2005 World's Fair in Aichi, Japan.

Finally, there's Ted Allen, who teaches guys how to negotiate the complications of the kitchen and the dinner table.

A contributing editor to Esquire since 1997, Allen is co-author of the "Things a Man Should Know" column in the magazine—an irreverent guide for men on fashion, sex, business etiquette, and cocktails. He has co-authored four books that grew out of that series.

Allen was finalist for a 2001 National Magazine Award for his June 2000 feature on male breast cancer, and again in 2003 for an Esquire food and travel package.

Before joining Esquire, Ted was a senior editor and restaurant critic of Chicago magazine, where he interviewed such food luminaries as Mario Batali, Martha Stewart, Paul Bocuse, Trotter, Rick Tramonto, Gale Gand and Rick Bayless.

Allen also has written a column on wine and spirits, "In the Spirit: The Intelligent Barfly," for the website Women.com.

The Fab 5 are scheduled to appear in Greenbelt on July 20, 7-8 p.m.; Glorietta on July 21, 4-5:30 p.m.; and Alabang Town Center on July 22, 10-11:30 a.m.

Catch "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" exclusively on ETC, every Monday at 9 p.m.



THE CAST of the Emmy award-winning "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy": Food and wine specialist Ted Allen, beauty and health expert Kyan Douglas, fashion guru Carson Kressley, interior designer Thom Filicia, and culture expert Jai Rodriguez



The competition is open to all Mega Manila residents. Send in your original recipes of Classic Filipino Dishes using any Century Tuna variant as the main ingredient together with fresh local produce, flavors and spices. Preparation should be simple yet creative.

WIN A FREE TRIP TO BANGKOK, THAILAND PLUS CASH PRIZES!

Amateur Food Enthusiast

1-member team
Pinoy Tuna Noodle/Pasta Showcase

PRIZES
Champion: P20,000.00 Cash
1st Runner-up: P15,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up: P10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up: P7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each participant

SEMI-FINALS - 1 Main course of noodles or pasta, with slicing (bread, bread sticks, crackers etc.) consisting of 80% of any Century Tuna variant as the main ingredient. Paste or Noodle must have at least 1 sauce and 1 garnish. Yield must be good for 4 servings.

GRAND FINALS - The same pasta/noodle main course that qualifies for the semi-finals must be prepared during the competition. Yield must be good for 6 servings.

HRM Student

3 member team - 2 students & 1 adviser
Classic Tuna Meal Battle

PRIZES
Champion: P20,000.00 Cash for the team and another P20,000.00 Cash for the school
1st Runner-up Team: P15,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up Team: P10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up Team: P7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each team member

COMPOSITION

SEMI-FINALS - 1 complete main course consisting of 80% of any Century Tuna variant as the main ingredient (no other protein will be allowed) and complemented (appropriate/supplementary) appropriate sauce and 1 garnish. Yield for the main course must be good for 4 servings.

GRAND FINALS - For On the Spot Filipino Market Basket, details shall be announced during the competition. Yield must be good for 12 servings.

Professional

1-member team
Tuna Iron Chef Face Off

PRIZES
Champion: P20,000.00 Cash plus a 1 week Thai culinary course at The Oriental Bangkok with airfare and hotel accommodation
1st Runner-up: P15,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up: P10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up: P7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each participant

COMPOSITION

SEMI-FINALS - 1 complete main course with starch and vegetable slicing; 2 appropriate sauces and 1 garnish. Yield for the main course must be good for 4 servings.

GRAND FINALS - For On the Spot Filipino Market Basket Main Course, details shall be announced during the competition. Yield must be good for 6 servings.

All contestants in each category are required to send an Original Classic Filipino Dish with their recipe (not previously entered in any contest, publication or exhibit) using only the following as the main ingredient: Century Tuna Solid in Vegetable Oil or Water, Century Tuna Chunks in Vegetable Oil or Water, Century Tuna Chunks Spanish Style, Century Tuna Flakes in Vegetable Oil, Century Tuna Hot and Spicy, Century Tuna Flakes with Lemon and Butter, Century Tuna Uba.

Other than Century Tuna, recipes are required to make use of at least one (1) of the following sponsors' ingredients or more than one (1) within reasonable amounts: Angel Evaporated Milk, Cream Cornstarch and All Purpose Flour, Good Life Oriental Sauces, Ideal Premium Spaghetti and Macaroni, Jolly canned vegetables and soups.

Deadline of submission of entries will be on:

HRM STUDENTS - July 10, 2006 at 6:00 PM
HOMEMAKER - July 17, 2006 at 6:00 PM
PROFESSIONALS - July 17, 2006 at 6:00 PM

Interested participants may call the event organizers for any further questions and clarifications at:

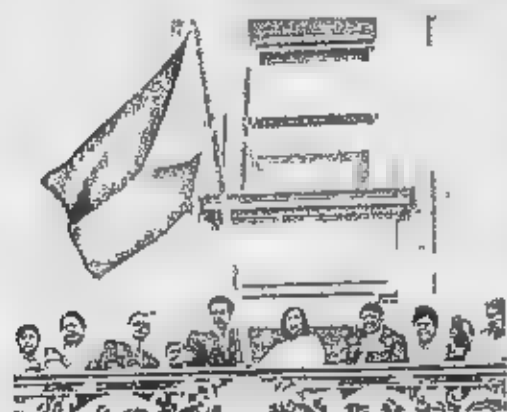
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WHAT'S INSIDE

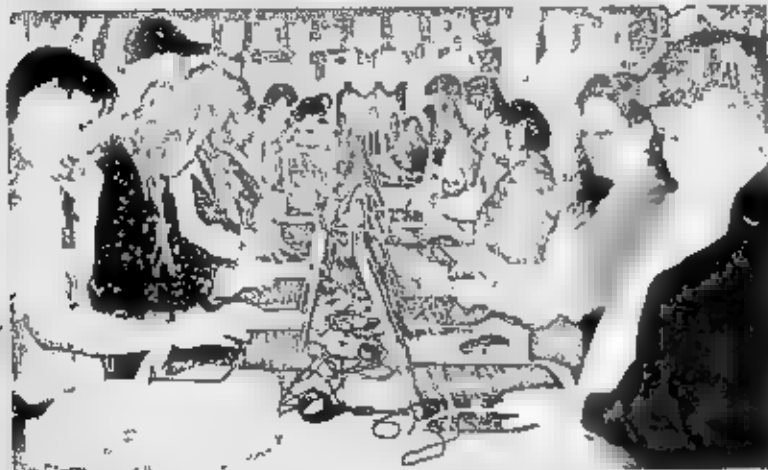


RP
National Day in San Francisco /C2

Open letter from the mother of the bride /F2



Pitoy Moreno conquers Washington /E2



WHILE young people eagerly log on to the DOT website, older Filipinos prefer to fill up forms.



THE FIL-AM Veterans Rondalla, headed by George G. Gange as chief coordinator



THE GROUNDS of the Civic Center become a picnic place for Filipino families.

San Francisco celebrates a Philippine Independence weekend

Text and photos by Linda S. Bolido

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA'S CITY by the Bay, had a two-day Filipino fiesta recently.

Held at the grounds of the Civic Center, with the imposing domed City Hall across, it was almost typical of this traditional Filipino celebration—featuring speeches, tiangge, musical presentations, Pinoy food, beauty contests, rondalla, rides and even games—except that each day had to begin at 10 and end by 6 p.m., and the games were not the usual *karera ng daga*, bongo or ball-throwing where winners get a couple of drinking glasses or plates, or a little cash.

And the event was not in honor of a patron saint, as Philippine fiestas traditionally are.

San Francisco's Fiesta Filipina, now on its 12th year, was a prelude to Philippine Independence Day on June 12. As the historic day fell on a Monday, Filipinos enjoyed an Independence weekend.

Though it was cold despite its being summer in the United States, Bay Area Pinoys of all ages came in droves, eager to check out the goods on offer, traditional Filipino foods and, this year, to watch ABS-CBN's game show, "Wowowee," and participate in its games.

But they also got to participate in a more high-tech kind of game.

Free tickets

By logging on to the website www.experiencephilippines.ph at the fiesta site, they became eligible to win one of 250 free plane seats being given away by Philippine Airlines through the Department of Tourism's new campaign, "The Philippines: Exp.ore. Experience. Return."

Philippines consul general Ma Rowena M. Sanchez and Tourism director for North-western USA Rene R. de los Santos formally launched the campaign during the event.

DOT set up a tent with Internet-ready laptop computers. Some of the old-timers preferred to fill up forms rather than go online, leaving it to DOT people to enter their names into the website.

The first 50 winners, drawn from early website visitors, were announced during the "Wowowee" show. Four more draws are



STALLS offer everything from books to real estate, food to courier services.



SAN FRANCISCO-BASED Filipinos log on for a chance to win free return tickets to the Philippines.

being planned, according to Ma. Corazon Jorda-Apo, head of DOT's Team North America, the dates to be announced on the website.

The choice of launch site for the new DOT promotion and the vehicle used to draw participants are clear indications of the campaign's targets—Filipinos in North America, particularly the more-technology-savvy younger generations, as well as American and Canadian citizens.

Update

Asian Institute of Management professor Tomas B. Lopez Jr., who helped DOT conceptualize the campaign, said the promo was basically an update of the successful *Balibayan* program launched decades ago.

But it recognizes the fact that many young Filipino-Americans, belonging to the second or third generation, may no longer have memories of, much less emotional ties to the Philippines, unlike the group the *Balibayan* program reached out to.

And, as Tourism Usec. Oscar P. Palabay pointed out, these second and third generation Fil-Ams were generally "computer literate." It is estimated that more than 80 percent of about 3.3 million Fil-Ams in North America go online.

The campaign slogan represents a promise for every type of visitor from North America. "Explore" is for the first-time visitor. It invites him/her to just see and enjoy the Philippines. "Experience" is for a "returnee," an invitation to try to have a more in-depth knowledge of the country, a feel for its various attractions. "Return" is, needless to say, targeted specifically at *kababayan*—an appeal to let themselves be reintroduced to their country and see that, contrary to misconceptions, the Philippines has moved into the 21st century.

This is why a complementary package is the "Out of the Box" promo for those who will accept the invitation. Lopez said visitors would "bring back" from the Philippines not the

This year's
Fiesta
Filipina for
Bay Area
Pinoys
included
'online
gaming'
organized
by the
Department
of Tourism

usual age-old souvenirs but items that bespoke of a country well into the current century.

Tourism Sec. Joseph Ace Durano said, when he announced the new campaign to the local media earlier, the *balibayan* box would contain items representative of a country very much into the 21st century "to change the perception that we are still backward."

Actually, the visitor could not really bring back to the US or Canada some of the stuff in the mixed bag—rather box—that include goodies from such sponsors as Abenson, American Eye Center, Avis, Globe Telecom, Kuok Group and Philippine National Bank. The gifts include discounted hotel accommodations and a fully furnished condominium unit.

Diverse packages

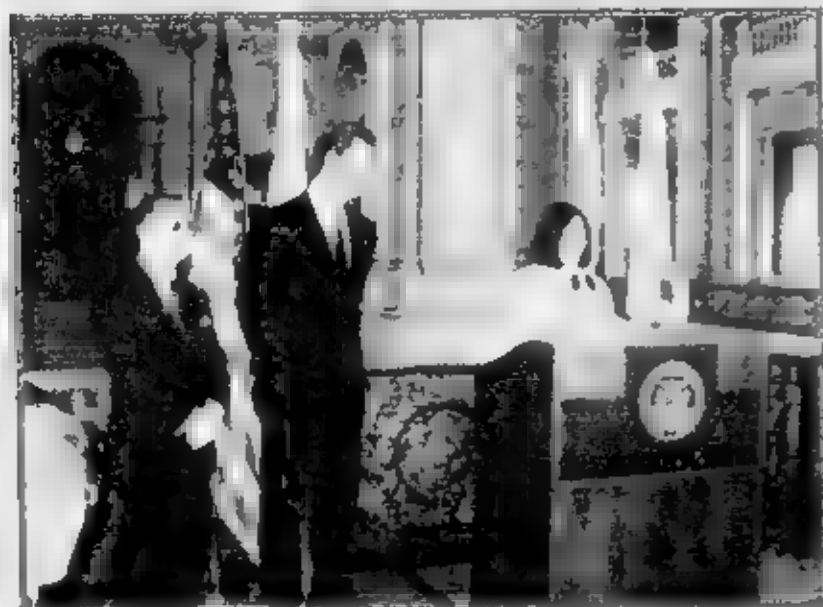
Jorda-Apo said, in anticipation of the diverse ages and interests of the expected visitors from North America, the DOT had packages that ranged from adventure to wellness tours.

Lopez said the campaign aimed to offer something for everyone so that whole families visiting the Philippines did not have to stay all in one place for the duration of their trip.

He pointed out that younger Fil-Ams, meeting relatives who were virtual strangers, would not feel as comfortable as their parents spending all their time at home during their visit. So alternatives should be presented to the younger visitors to make their stay enjoyable.

Lopez said the online gaming would also collect basic information needed by the DOT to fine-tune its campaigns. For website visitors, the more information they provide, the more raffle entries they get.

Fiesta Filipina 2006 was capped by the raising of the Filipino flag on Independence Day at the San Francisco City Hall balcony by Mayor Gavin Newsom and Sanchez. Newsom officially proclaimed June 12 as Philippine Heritage Day.



SAN FRANCISCO Mayor Gavin Newsom listens to Consul General Ma. Rowena M. Sanchez's Independence Day speech. Beside him is E. Dennis Normandy, chair of the San Francisco-Manila Sister City Committee.

"KAWIT," San Francisco. The balcony of the city hall is a more opulent version of the balcony of Emilio Aguinaldo's house in Cavite where the Philippine flag was raised after the proclamation of the country's independence in 1898.



Mobile phone store opens 6th branch

THE COUNTRY'S SIXTH SONY ERICSSON Concept Shop has opened at the SM Mall of Asia.

To celebrate the event, Sony Ericsson is giving away free items with every purchase of a Sony Ericsson handset. The store bears the distinctive Sony Ericsson retail design for the Asia Pacific.

Buyers of the candy bar-styled K300i camera phone, the 3G-capable K600i or the 1.3 megapixel S700i swivel-designed camera phone get a free additional charger. Every purchase of the J210i or clamshell Z300i comes with a free headset. A free extra BST 30/35 battery comes with the K700i, while the J220i, Z520i quadband clamshell phone with camera and 2-megapixel K750i camera phone come with free extra BST 37 battery.

Buyers of the J100i or J230i get a free Doraemon stuffed toy.

A purchase of a Sony Ericsson Walkman phone lets the customer choose from the Sony Ericsson Hot Picks CD collection—one CD with Sony Ericsson W550i Walkman, two with W800i, and three with 3G-capable W810i and W900i Walkman.

All purchases come with a full warranty.

The new Sony Ericsson Concept Shop also offers after-sales service, assuring fast service and the use of genuine parts.

On select weekends until July 31, visitors will also be treated to free demonstrations of the award-winning K750i and W810i, plus free photo printing for Sony Ericsson camera phones.

AHEAD PROFESSIONAL NETWORK (AheadPro) is offering the first "Leadership Strategies for School Managers" (LESSM) seminar-workshop July 7-8 at the La Salle Greenhills Lecture Hall in Mandaluyong City.

The two-day seminar covers topics such as school management, supervision and school leadership.

LESSM includes seven sessions by seasoned academics: Lilia Vengco (former principal of La Salle Greenhills; and Paascu chair); Dr. Leticia Penano-Ho (president of the Philippine Association of the Gifted and former dean, UP College of Education); and Dr. Cornelia Soto (veteran teacher trainer, former assistant headmaster of the Ateneo de Manila Grade School, and former Paascu chair).

mer Paascu chair)

AheadPro is a sister company of Ahead Tutorial and Review Center. It also conducts intensive English training, foreign language classes, and test preparation courses for the TOEFL, IELTS, GRE and GMAT. It has branches in Katipunan, Greenhills, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria and Dagupan.

Call 4260036 or 0917-8911187 or e-mail info@aheadph.com. LESSM is sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer and Radio Partners Inc.

Meanwhile, AheadPro addresses the need for professionals to re-master the English language through its comprehensive Intensive English programs.

The best trainers facilitate the learning and relearning of basic English grammar. AheadPro's programs cover critical areas of language proficiency: reading, writing, listening

and speaking for various purposes.

Ideal for professionals pursuing job opportunities both here and abroad, AheadPro's 12-Hour Compact Program enables the student to brush up on grammar, widen his/her vocabulary and familiarize himself/herself with idiomatic expressions.

High-level staff and executives can advance their communication skills and better work productivity through the 30-Hour Comprehensive Program. They can become master communicators through learning of advanced English structures, reading comprehension and business writing.

Upon completion of the program, all enrollees of the compact and comprehensive courses of AheadPro's Intensive English classes will be issued certificates as proof of their improvement in language proficiency.

Call 6360881 or 0917-5223373. Visit www.pro.aheadph.com.

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More and more families are being drawn to this idyllic seaside community beside a 102-year old functioning lighthouse. Phase 1 is completely sold out. The clubhouse that opens out to the sea has started construction.

Join the others who have seen the light that is Amara. Phase 2 lots are now on offer.

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PANAHON NA PARA UMASENSO!

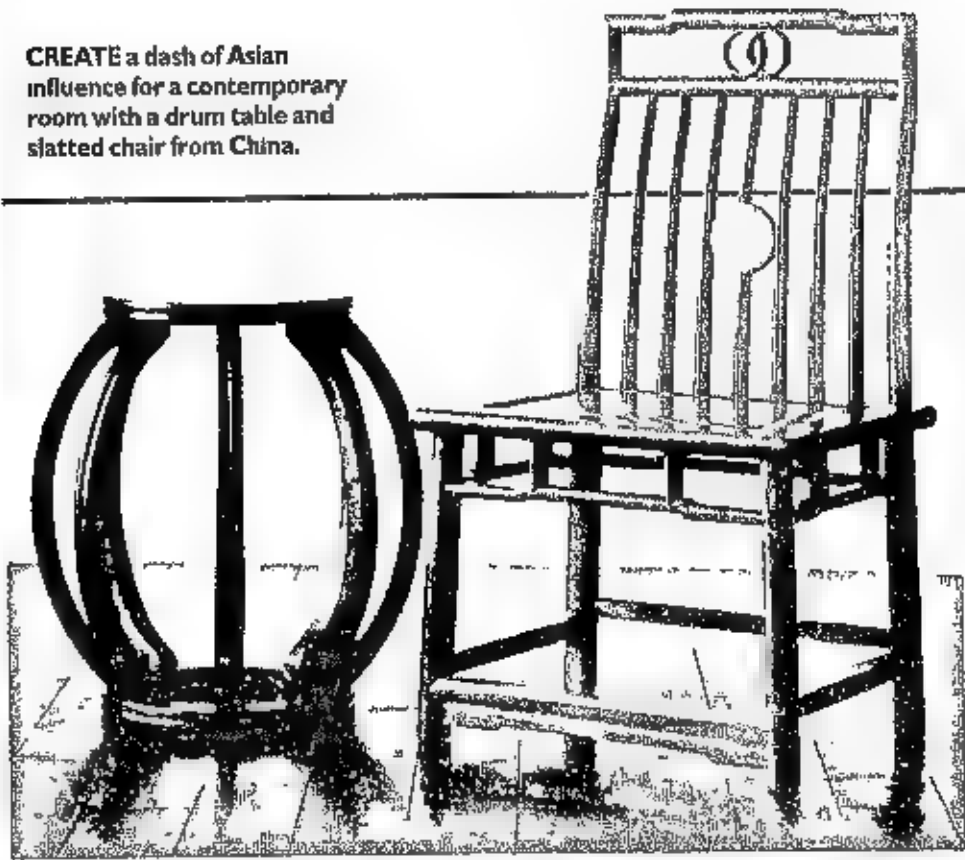
KAYA LIPAT NA SA PLDT! NOW NA!



PLDT The Pa Kin Ang May PLDT Landline.

Per DTI-MCH Permit No. 1516, Series of 2006. See Flyers for details.

CREATE a dash of Asian influence for a contemporary room with a drum table and slatted chair from China.



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Furniture shop offers anniversary sale



ABACA storage and organizer accessories



CANDLEHOLDERS made of cullet glass

TO CELEBRATE ITS THIRD year and as a way of saying thank you to loyal patrons, Anna Marie Home has an ongoing anniversary sale with items at attractive prices.

Unlike other stores that stick to only one design concept, the place is a showcase of Anna's own eclectic yet very tasteful ideas.

"I am not too fond of marching everything to the last detail," Anna explains. "My sofa could have as many as 10 throw pillows with no two pieces alike. My table could be an antique glass-topped polished wood and my set tings could be a mix of Philippine pottery dinnerware, chopsticks from China and Bangkok trays."

She also introduced the concept of repurposing or having a single piece serve many functions. A tall, slim cabinet can be used to keep files in the study or as a place to store knick-knacks anywhere in the house, while a storage cabinet with sliding cum folding doors can easily be transformed into a TV cabinet.

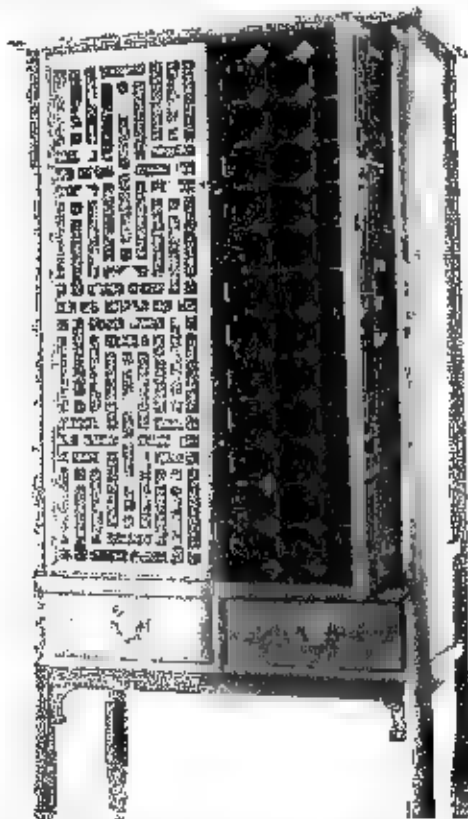
"One special furniture can lend an illusion of magnificence to a small space," says Anna.

At Anna Marie Home, Western-style sofas seamlessly blend in with a table of rough-hewn wood. A Chinese emperor's chair occupies a spot across a console table from Baguio. High-back chairs give way to tree stump seats at the head of the dining table.

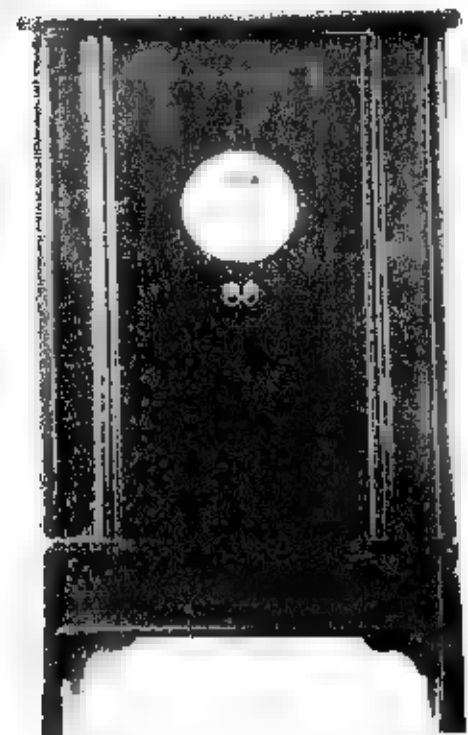
Though most of Anna Marie Home's furniture consists of Chinese antiques and reproductions, displays also include items from India, Morocco, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia and the Philippines.

The store also offers furniture (armoires, cabinets, dining tables), furniture decorators (chairs, stools, benches, side tables), home décor, home accessories, soft furnishings (throws, throw pillows, tablecloth), tabletop ware (plates, cups and saucers) and giftware.

Anna Marie Home is located on the second level, Jupiter corner Planet Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati. Call 8950406/8998088 or visit www.annamarihome.com



BROWN old elm cabinet with built-in modular wine rack from China



BROWN fir Ningbo Cabinet with sliding doors



Shangri-La Plaza Mall (02-771-2100) | Glorietta (02-771-2100) | Greenbelt 3 (02-771-2100)
 Alabang Town Center (02-255-1551) | SM Mall of Asia (02-201741) | Robinson Place Manila (02-771-1770)
 Rustan's Harrison Plaza (02-985-7777) | Power Plant Mall (02-985-7777) | Ayala Center Cebu (032-225-0053)
 SM City Zamboanga (053-965-2237/8) | Robinson Call Center (02-771-2100)
 Gateway Mall Aranda Center (02-771-2100) | SM City North EDSA (02-771-2100)

TRINITY TRADING SPECIALISTS (RNS) 5th Floor, TrinCity Center, 1000 10th Avenue, Makati City



THE KOHLER line features exquisite toilets, lavatories, and bathroom accessories.



WILCON, primarily a tile store, offers a complete line of bathroom products, from local to foreign brands.

Haven of bathroom fixtures and tiles



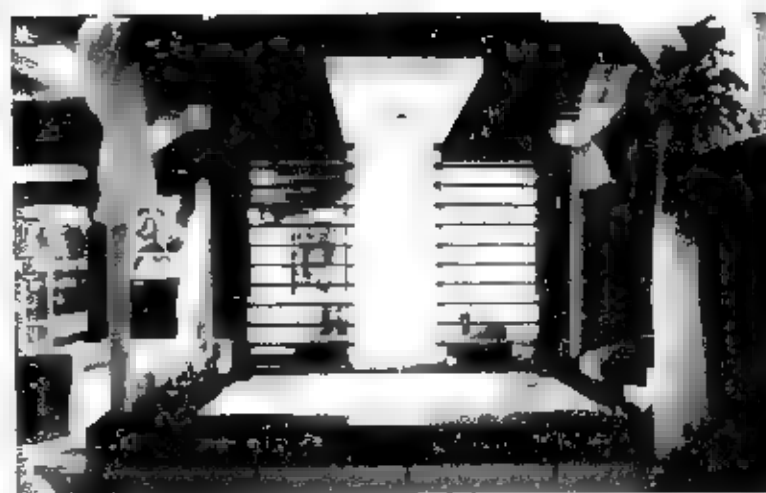
WILLIAM Belo, Jose Cortes, Gerry Contreras, Baby Arenas, Judy Reinke, Dr. Giacomo Nicastro, Stella Lee and Rose Ong

WILCON BUILDER'S DEPOT offers a complete line of bathroom products, from locally produced brands such as HCG and Toto, to high-quality foreign brands such as Kohler and Karat sanitary wares.

Bathroom fixtures complementing Wilcon's tile products include Italian brands Campana, Candia, Same, Novabell and Isla, which feature both contemporary and classic Italian designs and trends.

Wilcon, which started as a small hardware store in Quezon City, has moved to a six-story building in Libis, Quezon City. The place has ample parking space, a kiddie play corner, and a coffee shop.

Wilcon Builder's Depot Libis is one of Wilcon's five warehouse-sized shops around Metro Manila that offer home-finishing products.



BATHROOM fixtures feature both contemporary and classic Italian designs and trends.

Wilcon's main product line has always been tiles. Not only does the company carry top local brands such as Mariwasa, Tenzen and Italfil, it also houses several Spanish companies such as Alcala, Grespania, Rocersa, Keros and Tesany.

Visit the Wilcon Builders' Depot at 90 Rodriguez Jr. Ave.,

Ugong Norte, Libis, QC, 8003 Real St., Las Piñas, 1274 Edsa Bantawak, QC, 2212 Pasong Tamo, Makati; L119 C1 Mindanao Ave., Brgy. Talipapa, QC, and B29 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Brideway Dist., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

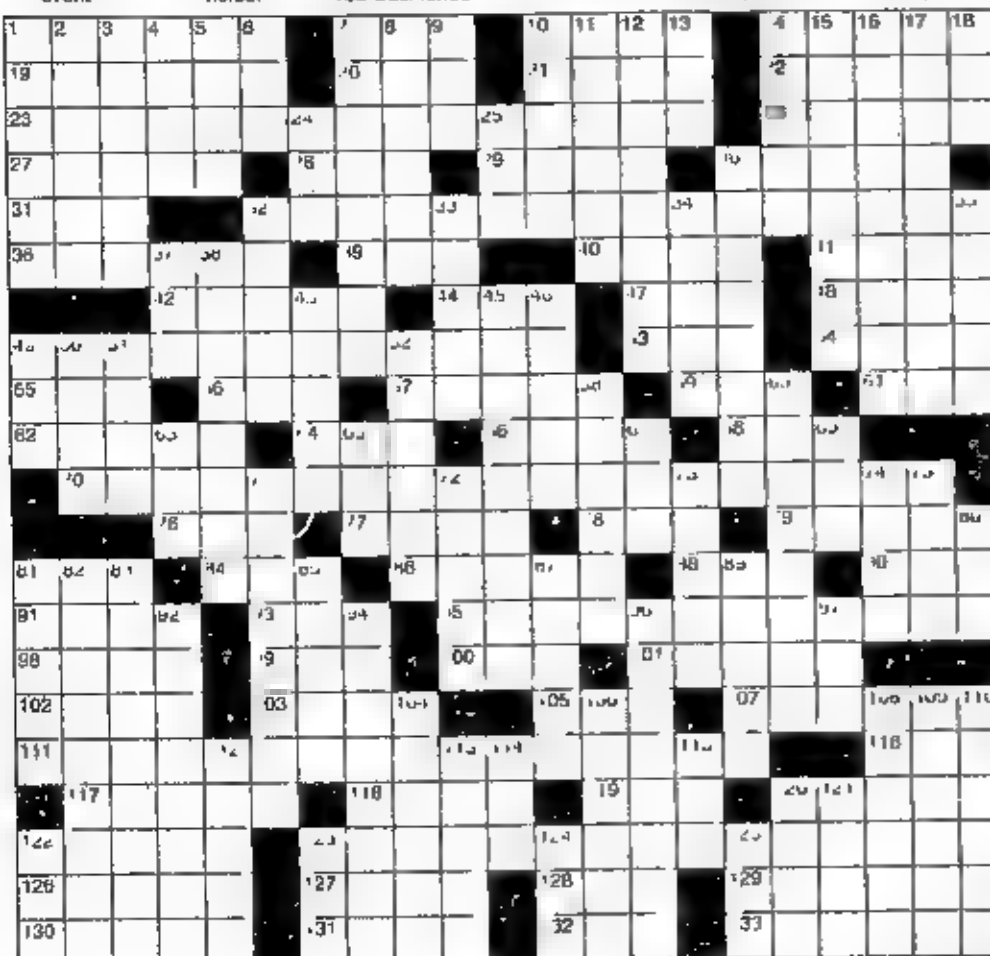
Call 6348387

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

RING

ACROSS	53 Mineo of "Giant"	95 123-Across symbol	DOWN	38 Allergy medication brand	81 Chocolate substitute
1 Big mix-ups	54 Nolas	96 TV co-host	1 Subway systems	43 Muckraker Sinclair	82 See 130
7 Ramona	55 China's Mao	97 — flesh (pronto)	2 Let a breath out	45 "The Ernie Kovacs Show"	83 Predatory
10 Caesar's 1,850	56 Like many or citizens	100 Fast Internet connection svc.	3 Tennis star Ederberg	46 "Can't just get along"	85 Of the moon
14 Little leaf on a flower	57 Early computer	101 Actress Winona	4 Squashy	49 Bread machine?	87 Star, briefly
19 Obtain by force	58 Bit of a chill	102 Musical locale	5 Lovers' poet	50 Tiny fraction of a min.	89 Mood
20 Emory	59 JFK jet, once	103 Singer (name)	6 Erwin of film	51 Infamous emperor	90 Financially ruined
21 inter — (among other things)	60 "Thanks, morn'eur"	104 Overhead railway	7 Animated FOX series	52 Close again, as a change purse	94 Large, white flower
22 TV's — Children	61 Com — (used)	105 Mieserles	8 Garbage collectors, in the past	53 "You Are So Beautiful" singer Joe	96 Sets of fed. income-tax rules
23 When 123-Across is observed	62 North Carolina's University	106 123-Across event	9 Classic auto	54 Wollitzer's broadcaster	97 Pl. of TGIF
26 Sphere	63 Dissenter's vote	107 Like mumps	10 Principal	55 Reprieve granted	104 Endures
27 Inflexible boils	64 Group closely associated with 123-Across	108 Ireland, in Ireland	11 Hen sounds	56 Improved partner	105 "Imagine" singer
28 Hobo	65 Diary writer Anais	109 — (for profit)	12 Weakings	57 — Valley (San Francisco area)	108 Managed to avoid
29 Boulder	66 "Shalom"	110 Sorrow	13 Horrific narratives	58 "You Are So Beautiful" singer Joe	109 Seek food
30 Papa Doc's domain	67 Salivate	111 Profress	14 What the punctuation mark " " is called	59 Hostilely	110 Moved back and forth
31 Suffix with plug or pay	68 "Sever in the sky"	112 With 82-Down, trattoria dish	15 Novels' main stories	60 Only record	112 Ukrainian port
32 123-Across event	69 Swift horse holder	113 Cushioned	16 Moods		113 "you clever!"
36 Roman orator			17 Drain cleaner		114 Business apt.
39 Year, in Rio			18 Baseball card star		115 Sport — (off-road vehicle)
40 Ill-natured			19 To's partner		120 West Coast sch.
41 Trig function			20 Menial worker		121 Embraced
42 Record store purchase			21 Aesop work		122 Aug.
44 Kitten a cry			22 Girl, in time		123 Not in the pink
47 Historic lead-in			23 When repeated, a pop band		124 Female bleater
48 Peruvian of old			24 Brewing stuff		125 Short shuffles
49 123-Across event			25 H2O, in Le Havre		



answer on page F3



BOOTHS will showcase the best pieces in experts' collections.

Midyear garden show

THE PHILIPPINE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY INC. (PH-SI) will have its midyear Horticulture 2006 Garden Show on July 28-Aug. 8 at the Manila Seedling Bank Environment Center, Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, QC.

The show will highlight ferns and aroids. Theme of the event is World Ethnic Gardens, according to overall chair PJ Nepomuceno.

The show will feature plant and landscape competitions, lectures, plant clinics, raffles and sales. Motif for this year's show is ethnic.

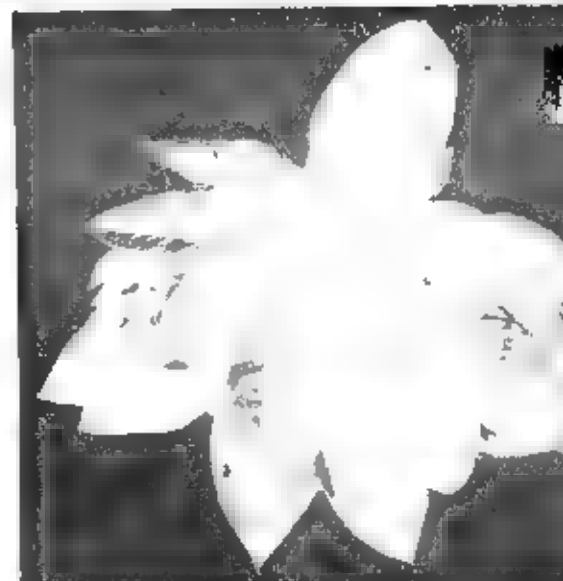
Proceeds will support the pub-

lication of the society's fern and aroid study groups' research books. The fern study group is headed by Anthony Arbias and the aroid research team is headed by Fernando Augue.

Competitions will involve ferns, aroids, orchid and ornamentals.

Co-chair Chat Alejandro said horticulture experts and plant specialists like Ray Santos, Roldan Abundo, Vic Chun Jr., Raf Eugenio, Dorie Bernabe, Fely Gupit, Ely Jocson, Serapion Metilla and Francis Gener will exhibit their best plants and do landscapes.

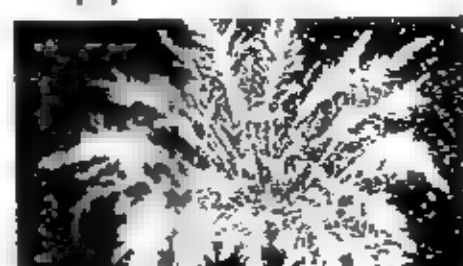
Call 4267581, 0918-2748471 or visit the PHSI office at the MS-BF Complex.



A COMPETITION of aroids is one of the show's features.



AWARD-WINNING plants, like this euphorbia (above) and fern (below), will be displayed.



THIS ornamental booth was adjudged best last year.



DILY designed bathroom showcases are available

Solution to bad reception

GREENTEK INDOOR AND OUTDOOR antenna may be the solution to bad television and radio reception.

The antenna's 10dB amplification picks up weak signals while its 39" dipoles adjust and rotate for stronger pick-up.

Greentek offers a wide range of choices. For indoor, the UVR-AV 022 comes with built-in high gain booster, gain control and dual function socket (P395). The UVR-AV 228 (P495) offers high gain and low noise, useable working voltage, indoor and outdoor reception of TV signal, adjustable stretching rods, and is UHF-rotated.

The UVR-AV 208 has built-in gain booster, gain control, retractable dipoles and is adjustable for best reception. The

UVR AV 209 has an additional 75 signal input/output socket while the UVR-AV 210 has large UFG loop for clear pictures and LED power-on indicator. All three models cost P695 each.

The STAR-1A has all the other features plus an infrared remote control to rotate 360 degrees (P995).

For outdoor, Greentek offers remote-controlled antennas allowing the antenna's position to be changed from within the house. Choices are 850 mode, (P995) and premium waterproof ET-1A model (P1,495).

Call Search Commercial at 8990102 or visit DIY Shops in Ortigas, Libis, Cubao, Fairview, Sucat, Camtá, Imus, Naga, Batangas, Baguio, Tarlac, Olongapo,



GREENTEK offers remote-controlled antennas that allow the antenna's position to be changed from within the house.

Angeles, Dagupan, Urdaneta and Alaminos.

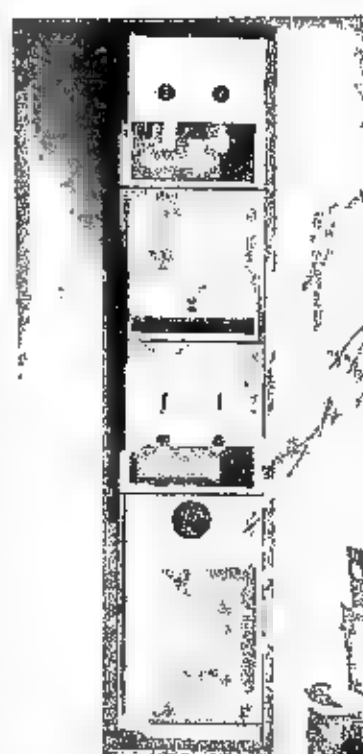
Classic stainless steel fittings now in town

DANISH BRAND D LINE, which has a comprehensive and extensive range of fittings in stainless steel with more than 3,000 components in production, is now available in the Philippines.

Carl F as, which carries the Danish brand D Line, recently signed an exclusive distributor agreement with Eurotiles Industrial Corporation.

Since 1970, D Line has developed a unique range of well-designed, high-quality, stainless steel, grade 316 products, ranging from hardware to bathrooms, washrooms, handrails, wardrobes, and signs.

Used and specified worldwide by architects and designers, the brand was designed by Knud Holscher, Professor, Ar-



chitect & Designer. The entire range conforms to a strict design philosophy.

The main characteristic of the D Line range is that all items are bent to a radius which equals the radius of the tube. This guarantees the uniform design of D Line, which uniquely carries through from door furniture through signage and mechanical items to bathroom fittings.

The brand's minimalist concept and clean design, as well as its low maintenance and durability, makes it a worthwhile investment for builders, architects, and designers.

D Line products are showcased at Federa Design Expo, 2250 Don Chino Rocas Ave., Makati City, Cal. 8936553/8936589, or visit www.dline.com.

PREVIEW PARTY!

KIDS' PREVIEW PARTY!

AWARDS

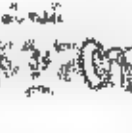
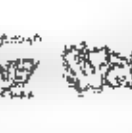
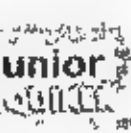
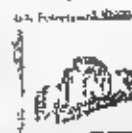
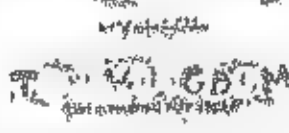
ENJOY BOOTH GAMES, PRIZES & SURPRISES!

BE MESMERIZED BY CIRCUS ACTS

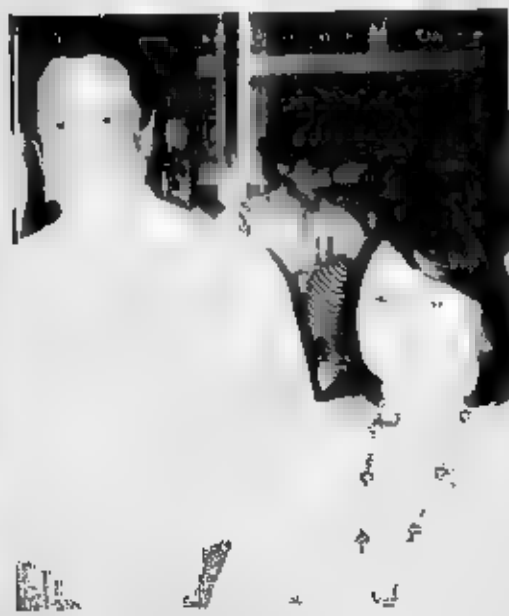
ENTERTAINMENT

STARTING: 7:00 PM
JULY 8, 2006

CELEBRATE YOUR POWER TO CHOOSE!



Filipiniana exhibit opens in Spain



AMBASSADOR Joseph Bernardo and Sarah Salcedo

I'M BACK AFTER A LONG and much-needed vacation, thanks to Qatar Airways. I had a ticket that was about to expire so I flew from Cebu to Doha, and on to Madrid.

It is the most convenient way for Cebuanos to go to Spain, with just one stop to change planes in Qatar's capital, Doha.

On the way back, it is the same procedure; you check in your luggage all the way from Madrid to Cebu. There's just one catch: an 18-hour wait for the plane to Cebu. Those bound for Manila only have a three-hour wait.

What to do in Doha for 18 hours? You can take an exciting tour of the desert dunes. You may go shopping in the exotic souks and try the Arabian cuisine, which is fabulous. Once, we made a sortie to an animal farm. The photo op with ostriches was memorable, and so was the camel ride.

This time, though, I decided to luxuriate in the Doha Marriott Hotel. It is palatial in its

CEBU
CEBU

Jaime
Picornell



TCM or MGM channels.

While in Spain, I looked up friends and relations in Madrid, Zaragoza, Calamocha (Teruel), and Jaen. In Madrid, I saw a *sarsuela*, "La Tabernera del Puerto," mounted as an opera, and a colorful extravaganza titled "Antologia de la Danza Española."

A memorable event was the opening of the Filipino exhibit at the Centro Cultural in the Cuartel del Conde-Duque, a huge historic edifice restored as a cultural center, with an impressive central-stone patio. The exhibit was organized by Barcelona-based Casa Asia. It depicted life in the Philippines from the Spanish era to the present.

décor and accommodations.

The huge swimming pool was most inviting; so were the various restaurants and the spa. But you could do as I did: shave and shower, snuggle into bed for a good sleep amid a dozen fluffy pillows, and enjoy the movies on the



GEORGINA Padilla Zobel and her Juan Luna painting

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C2 Green Tea is the only green tea drink that goes through the unique process of capturing the purest, most natural flavor of Green Tea so it gets to you the way it should.

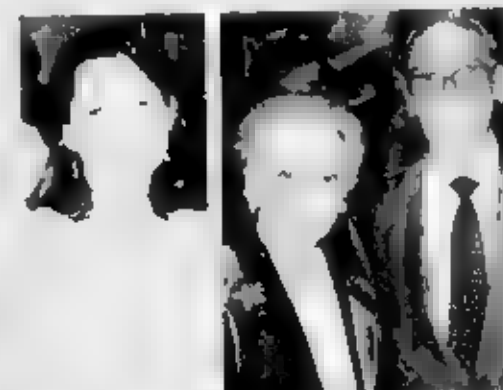
And that makes the C2 difference!

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Mandarin for
"brewed from natural green tea leaves"



CASA Asia director Carmen Pi, Isabel Wilson and Carolina Abotiz

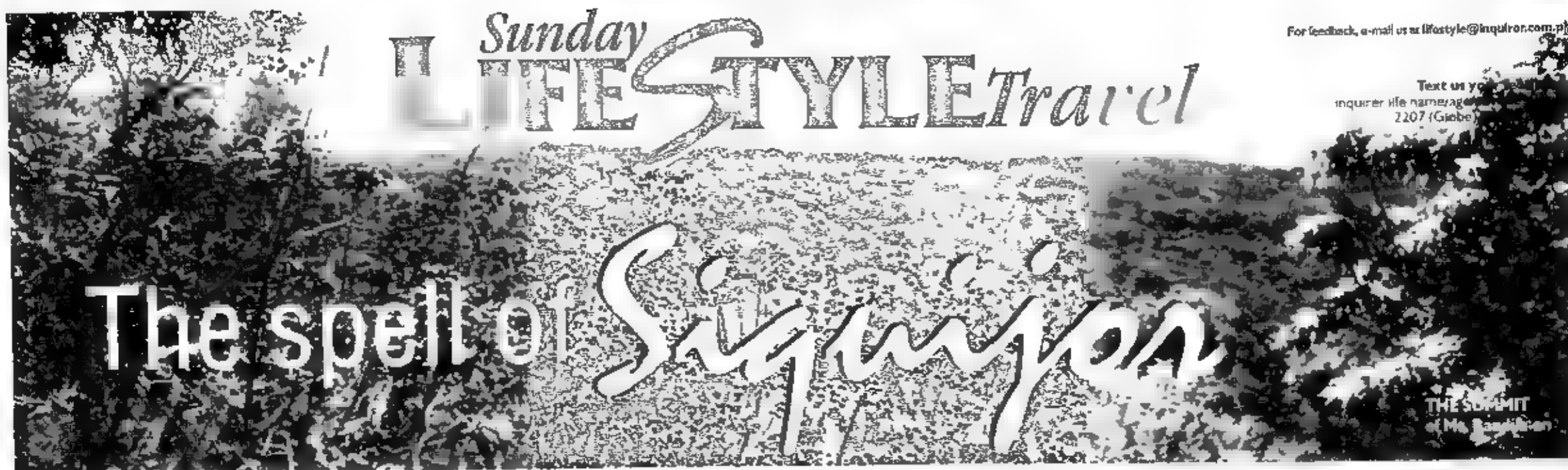


NURIA Cugat

BETSY von Westendorp de Brias and Mike Stilianopoulos



TITA Gotingco and Hope Ledesma de Sagaz



Text and photos by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IN OLDEN TIMES, SIQUIJOR had an abundance of fireflies, and these glowed around the trees at night. It must have been an eerie and fascinating sight, and the Spaniards called the area Isla de Fuego or Island of Fire.

The Japanese military, during World War II, were less captivated by the island, and they engaged in manganese mining which destroyed the environment. To flush out the guerillas in Siquijor's Mt. Bandila-an, the Japanese razed the mountain to the ground, only five hectares remained untouched.

The Isla de Fuego had literally become an Island of Fire.

During the postwar era, the national government embarked on a massive reforestation program, and today Mt. Bandila-an is a nature park, an ecological destination area of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Peaceful and pastoral, almost pristine, the province of Siquijor has a reputation for sorcery most Siquijonons would rather not dwell on. "There are no witches here, only traditional healers," claimed a local tourism official once.

Last Holy Week, faith healers from other provinces joined their local counterparts to mix lots of species with the special oil found here. And, amid rituals and incantations, they created potions, which may include love potions and other kinds of heady brew.

THE SPELL/E3

Peaceful and pastoral, almost pristine, the province has a reputation for sorcery the locals would rather not dwell on



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Former Asst. Headmaster, Ateneo Grade School
Professor, Ateneo Graduate School
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AHEAD Professional Network (AHEADPro) is conducting this and related seminars for school administrators and teachers in different parts of the country. AHEADPro also offers English language training to teachers and other professionals. AHEADPro is a sister company of AHEAD—the leading and most awarded tutorial and review center in the Philippines.

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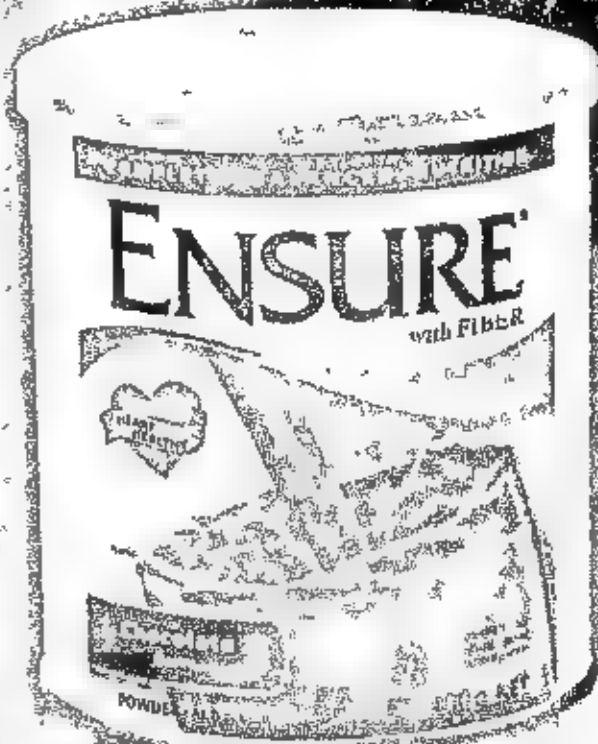


Your heart is the center of your life. Every part of your body depends on the heart to pump blood to all the cells in your body. It's not just your heart that's important. It's the blood that flows through your arteries, veins, and capillaries. The blood carries oxygen and nutrients to all the cells in your body. If your heart is not working properly, the blood flow is disrupted, and the cells in your body don't get the oxygen and nutrients they need to live. This can lead to heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States.

Although your heart is the center of your life, it's not the only part of your body that's important. Your arteries, veins, and capillaries are also important. They carry the blood from your heart to all the cells in your body. If your arteries, veins, and capillaries are not working properly, the blood flow is disrupted, and the cells in your body don't get the oxygen and nutrients they need to live. This can lead to heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States.

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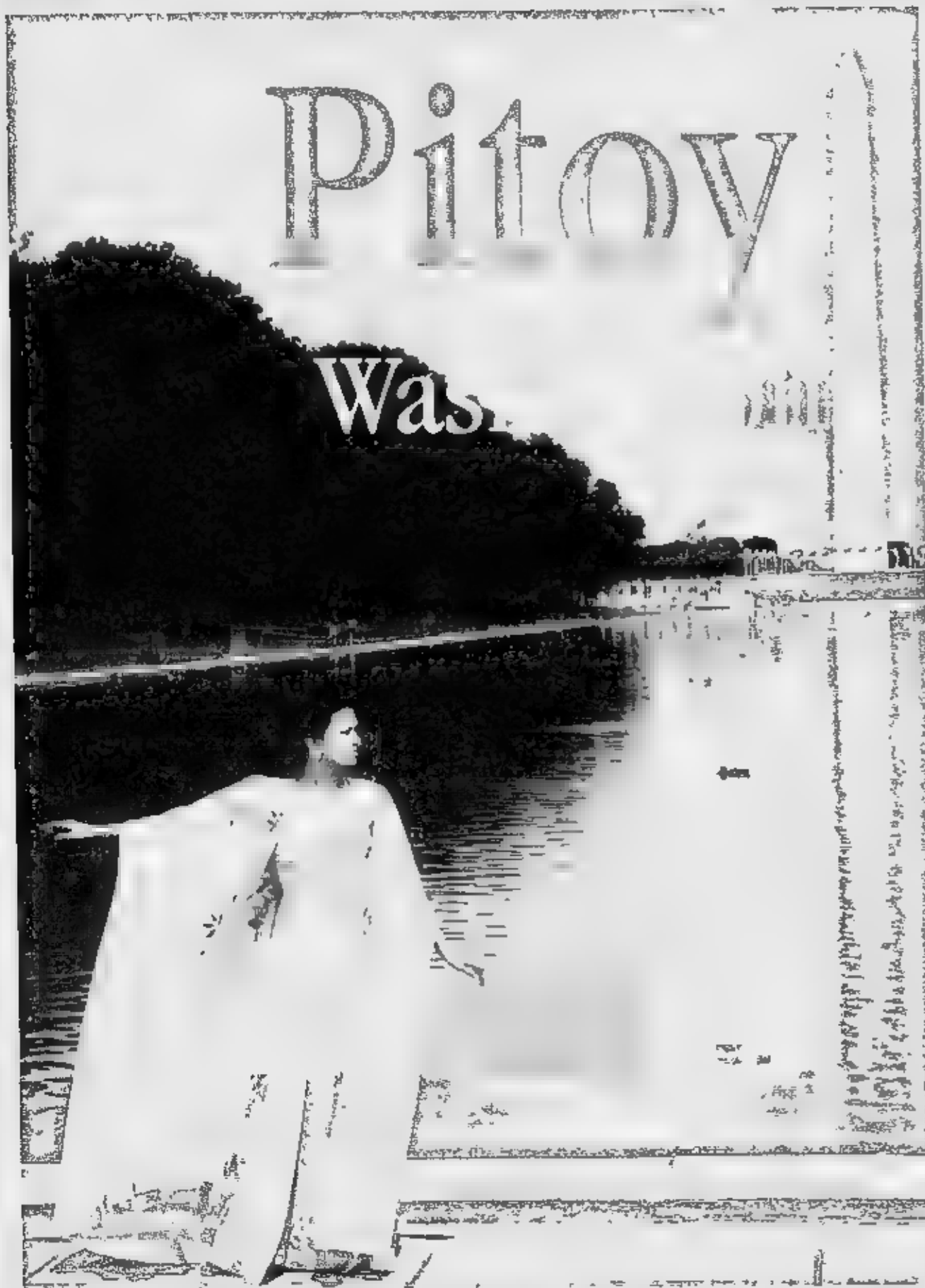


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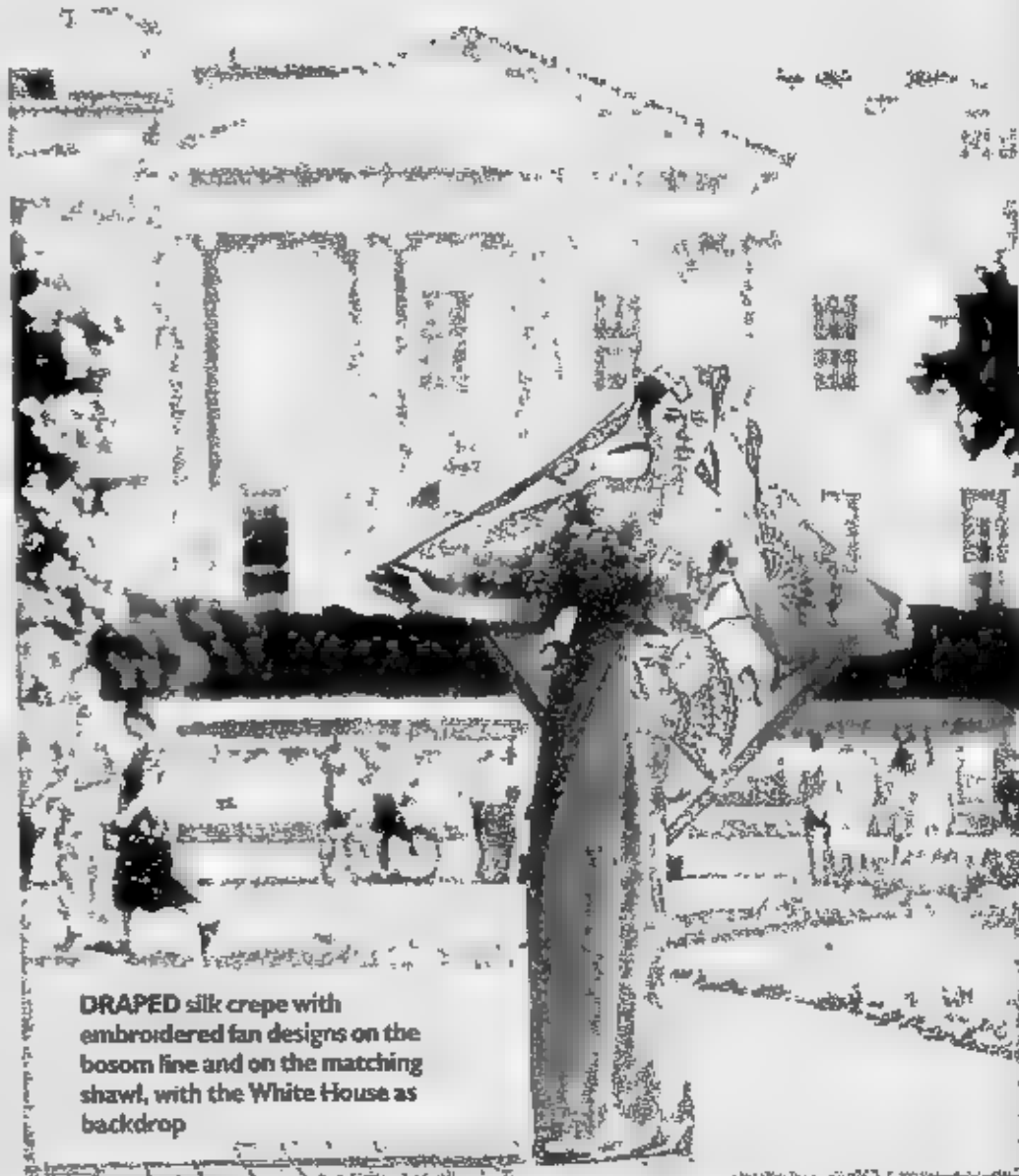


THE WASHINGTON Monument serves as a stunning backdrop to this piña opera coat with classic embroidery on edges and blue draped gown underneath.

TWO of the most applauded creations, piña coats with beautifully embroidered design on each end of the shoulder of the coat over a draped silk crepe



DRAMATIC summer gown in full silk of silk gauze with beaded heron design and pleating spread on the becom top. A Filipino "payong" (parasol) with lace-cutout edges complements the



DRAPED silk crepe with embroidered fan designs on the bosom line and on the matching shawl, with the White House as backdrop

PHILIPPINE FASHION maestro José "Pitoy" Moreno unleashed a powerhouse collection of Filipino styles with modern silhouettes in a well-received show in the capital of the world's superpower.

Titled *J. Moreno, Philippines Costumes and Inspirations*, the show was held at the ballroom of the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington D.C. last week.

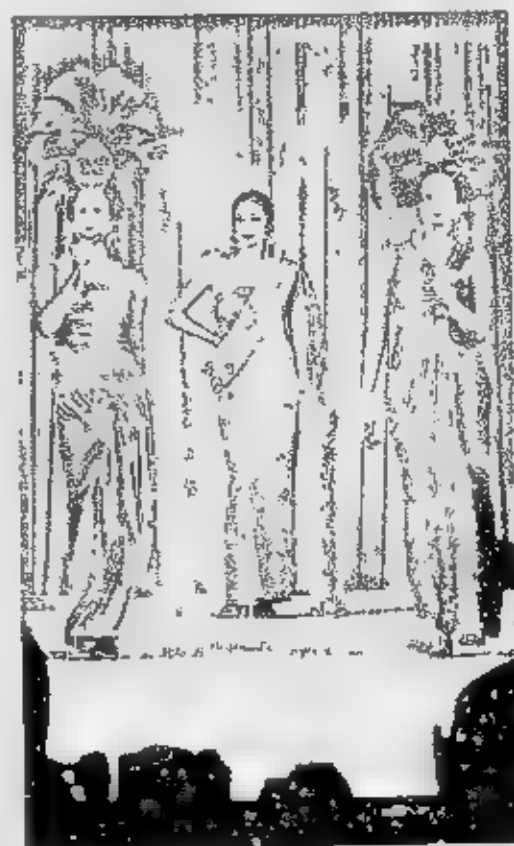
Organized by the Philippine embassy in Washington headed by Ambassador Albert del Rosario, the show was held to commemorate the centennial of the first arrival of Filipinos in the United States in 1906.

The collection consisted of Filipino gowns with local motifs and materials rendered along contemporary lines.

Also featured were Maria Clara gowns and turn-of-the-20th century barong with cocho slippers and native jewelry and accessories.

The fashion gala drew some 800 spectators, some of them members of the US Congress and other American officials.

Moreno got a standing ovation after the show. "It was the most thunderous ovation I have received in my many years of touring capitals of the world to show Filipino fashion," Moreno said. "It was very touching."



ATI-ATIHAN-inspired gowns with generously draped jerseys, accompanied by Mardi Gras masks and headpieces



PITTOY Moreno receiving a standing ovation from prominent personalities and Filipino US residents in Washington DC at the finale of his fashion show at the Ritz Carlton Hotel Ballroom, which accommodated around around 800 guests.

BEAUTY queens take a bow at the finale. Carla Bautista in a piña twin panel creation with all-beaded sleeves, Precious Quigaman in white gauze and twin panels on both arms that fall into a dramatic beaded train, and Maan Bayot in a heavy silver embroidered gown



THE SHOW featured authentic Filipiniana such as Maria Clara gowns, turn-of-the-century barong with tapis and cocho slippers and heirloom jewelry.

SALAGDO-ON Beach in Maria town is the most attractive beach in Siquijor.



The spell of Siquijor

From page E1

The medicines are said to be most effective when gathered on Good Friday.

Siquijor lies south of Cebu and Bohol in Central Visayas. The entry point is Dumaguete City, capital of Negros Oriental, in my case via the SuperFerry (P3,700 round-trip promo, economy/aircon). Thanks to Judd Salas of the Abotiz Transport System, I was upgraded to a state-room on board SF-2 (and to a cabinet in SF-5 on the return trip).

From Dumaguete, it is a one-hour ferry-boat ride (P160, promo again) to the capital of Siquijor, also called Siquijor. There are five other towns—all also coastal—in the province: Larena, San Juan, Lazi, Maria and Enrique Villanueva.

Siquijor is all of 33,000 hectares, and it only takes three hours of leisurely driving to traverse the island through the circumferential coastal highway.

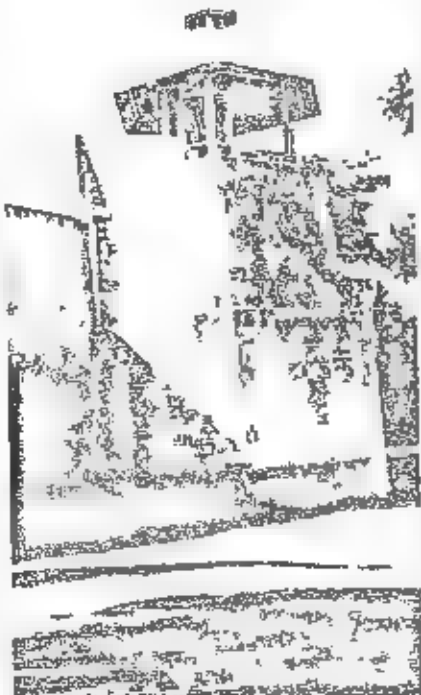
There are numerous budget hotels and beach resorts in Siquijor, the most pricey being the standard Coco Grove in San Juan. For this budget-conscious traveler spending his own money, my host Oscar Magallanes, the DENR provincial officer, recommended the Siquijor State College in Larena, which has executive guesthouses, aircon and quite satisfactory at P650.

The state college has an attractive beachfront area below the hostel, with picnic huts, rock formations, sea grass and clear waters which are a favorite swimming area of the boisterous local children, mostly boys.

Across the bay are the mountains of Cebu and Negros Oriental. (These disappear, however, during hazy and misty mornings.)

Cultural landmarks

The island of Siquijor is filled with unspoiled beaches, mangroves, caves, butterfly and marine sanctuaries and cultural landmarks.



ST. FRANCIS de Assisi bell tower, circa 1850s

The St. Francis of Assisi Church in Maria, with its bell tower, dates back to 1857. Even more famous is the St. Isidore church in Lazi and its convent house, declared a historical landmark in 1985. It is the oldest and biggest convent in the country.

For swimmers, there's the Capilez Spring Park in San Juan, a natural pool with spring waters that is a favorite of the local youth, and Salagdo-on Beach in Maria. Before reaching Salagdo-on, which is also a diving site, you enter a manmade forest filled with thousands of trees.

Salagdo-on has attractive twin beach coves and a resort with cottages, among other amenities. The waters are deep and crystal clear, with corals in relatively good condition, and the two beaches have white sand.

Contabon in Mt. Bandila-an is the most explored of the province's many caves. It has abundant deposits of stalagmites and stalagmites, and a subterranean stream.

The Mt. Bandila-an Nature Park is a proposed Protected Landscape. "It has 187 identified species of flora, 36 identified species of birds and 100 butterfly species," reports the DENR's Magallanes (who is from San Carlos Bukidnon). "Mahogany is dominant among the tree species."

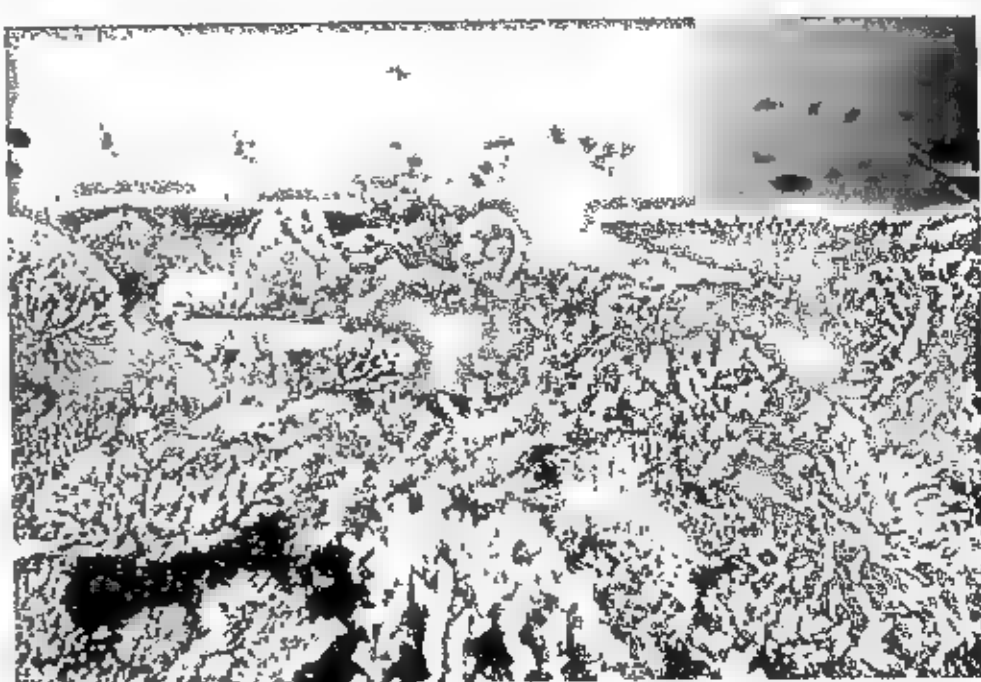
The mountain is accessible by vehicle up to midpoint, which is the Bandila-an Lodge and project site, where tourists like to bring tents and set up camp. They can also stay overnight in the lodge, with the permission of forester Ursicio Galamiton.

Nearby are minifalls, Grotto, Stations of the Cross leading to the summit and a century-old, spreading baobab tree which is, as forester Galamiton put it, "the dwelling place of the spirits in Siquijor."

Then the ascent by foot from midpoint to the peak—600 meters (around 2,000 feet) above sea level—is facilitated by a manmade stairway of stone along the trails. I was practically limping and in near-agony, however, because of a foot allergy.

There are three crosses on the summit (with vandals leaving their inscriptions at the back of each cross), and a steel tower viewpoint, with all of Siquijor below you. There is the Mindanao Sea, and as a backdrop the mountains of Cebu, Bohol and Negros Oriental. The Apo Island sanctuary is a dot on the horizon. To the south is the Zamboanga Peninsula, although hardly visible.

On the way down, with the DENR vehicle negotiating the zigzag, the mountain peaks of the island province of Camiguin materialized in the distance, like Venus rising from the sea.



THE COUNTRY has many wonders to offer.

Ecotourism: the next bright spot

DURING A RECENT VACATION WITH HIS family at Tubattaha, Palawan, a natural diving haven that offers a majestic view of an underwater paradise, Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion, saw the economic possibilities of responsible ecotourism.

While the proper agencies have been clamoring for an increase in awareness to the various tourism attractions the country has to offer (often targeted to consumers), the Founding Trustee of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship—the organization behind the Go Negosyo events, as well as Concepcion's vessel for advocacy to promote a culture of Entrepreneurship—thought ecotourism was a window of opportunity for potential and aspiring entrepreneurs.

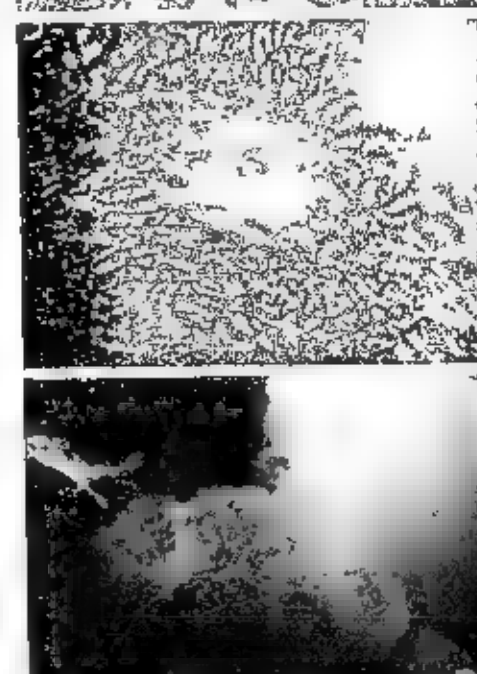
"It is no secret that there are many wonders our country has to offer. With that comes a doorway to Filipinos who wish to run their own business, from offering services such as food and lodging, travel guides, souvenirs, just to name a few. Ecotourism is a treasure chest that most have overlooked," says Concepcion.

Concepcion is already contemplating an ecotourism Negosyo Fair or forum. He is at present gathering the necessary subjects and resource persons who will reinforce his vision of an Entrepreneurship Revolution.

This, of course, goes hand-in-hand with his other activities, including the "Go Negosyo" TV show, which is currently on air, and an upcoming TechnoNegosyo conference.

"The key is providing options," says Concepcion. "We have to open as many doors and to tap into as many business models and ideas so we can help Juan de la Cruz get up on his feet and support himself and his family."

After all, he adds, "It's a rare opportunity to have a business that not helps oneself, but also helps the country."



RECENT reports say the Philippines probably has the most diverse marine ecosystem in the world.

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Philippine team is third in shopping challenge

TEAM PHILIPPINES IS THIRD IN THE GREAT Singapore International Shopping Challenge that began the annual Great Singapore Sale (GSS). Australia was first and Malaysia was second. The Philippine team consisted of Jane Kingsu, of Metro Magazine, Edwin Saran of the Manila Bulletin and JJ San Juan of Philippine Star. Seventeen international shopping teams competed for the grand prize of S\$10,000 cash. Each team was given S\$1,000 to shop for specified products while achieving the greatest savings. Team Australia had a total savings of S\$2,809.88 while Team Malaysia saved S\$2,504.34. Team Philippines had savings of S\$2,238.59.

All participating teams kept the items they purchased. Team Philippines, which received a S\$3,000 cash prize, got products from BCMG, Fila, British India Swarovski and a Pentax digital camera priced at S\$199, down from the original price of S\$638. Last year Filipinos were overall champions. Rocson Chang, Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines area director, said the team had done them proud by sustaining its winning streak.

GSS, which runs until July 23, offers up to 70 percent in discount on just about everything—fashion items, electronics, jewelry, watches, gifts and homeware.

GSS 2006 retail sales in June and July exceeded the S\$4.6 billion mark set the previous year. Visit www.visitsingapore.com for more information.

Convention package

Camp John Hay is offering again this year the "Convene at The Peak" package for seminars and conferences.

For P6,250 per person, the package includes a three-day, two-night stay in a Superior Room at The Manor. Most of the rooms at the Manor, the piano bar, the reception area, administration offices, business center and parts of verandah are Wi-Fi capable.

The CAP John Hay Trade and Cultural Center is an efficient, well-equipped convention site with facilities for audio-visual presentations.

"Convene at The Peak" convention package is valid for check-in Sunday and checkout Friday.

New service

Starting July 18, Singapore Airlines and SilkAir offer passengers from Manila, Cebu and Davao thrice weekly same-day flight connections via Singapore to Milan and Barcelona. Introductory airfares on SIA Economy Class to Milan or Barcelona from Manila starts at US\$788, subject to taxes and surcharges. The limited offer is valid for departure from Manila until Sept. 30 only. Log on to singaporeair.com or call 7568899 (Manila), 2326211 (Cebu) or 2245608 (Davao).

Off-season Boracay package

The Sun Village Boracay Resorts offers the off-season Endless Summer 2006 package. With the three-day, two-night package, a group of four pay P1,350 per person. Threesomes pay P2,530 per person while couples pay P2,060 per person. Those traveling alone pay P3,660 each. For a four-day, three-night stay, rates are P2,460 (triple occupancy), P3,510 (double occupancy) and P6,360 (single occupancy).

The Endless Summer 2006 is available at the three Sun Village Boracay Resorts until Oct. 26. Call the Manila office at 8131338 or 8937293, or the Boracay office at (036) 2885541. You may also fax (632) 8171186 or e-mail sunresorts@trileys.com.

Play and win

Singapore Airlines' "First to Fly the A380 QJZ and Draw" is giving away two seats on the world's first A380 commercial flight and a luxurious two-destination hotel stay in Singapore and Sydney. SIA celebrates the A380 historic flight from Singapore to Sydney. The promo is open to all 18 years old and older. It runs until Sept. 13. To join, simply log on to www.singaporeair.com/a380.

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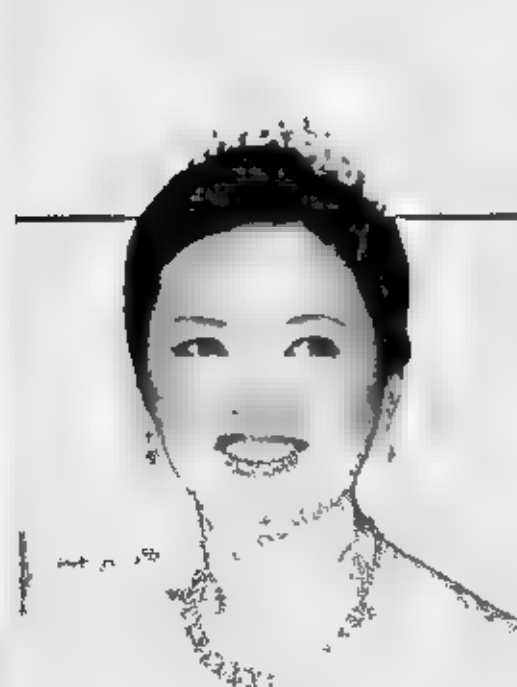
For details visit nwa.com/asia/worldperks

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SPECIAL PROMO

Best Western Astor in Makati offers "4 Nights Plus 1" promo until July 15. Hotel guests who stay for four consecutive nights in a deluxe room are entitled to a complimentary room plus buffet breakfast for two. Best Western Astor is at 7835 Makati Ave., corner Eduque St., Makati City. For reservations, call 7507564 or email reservations@bestwesternastor.com. For more information, log on to www.bestwesternastor.com.



THE COUPLE, Francesca Joanna
Olmedo Arias and Vicente Socrates Arias III

Sunday LIFE STYLE

An open letter to my daughter on her wedding day

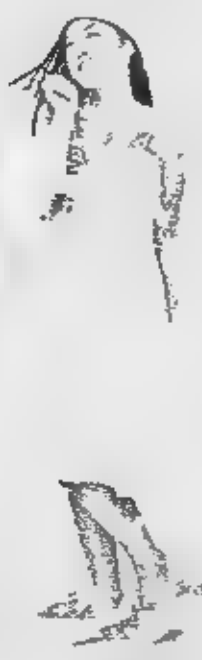
It seemed as if the whole world stood still,
with the essence of love distilled in all its purity
when you went to meet your groom

STORY ON PAGE F2

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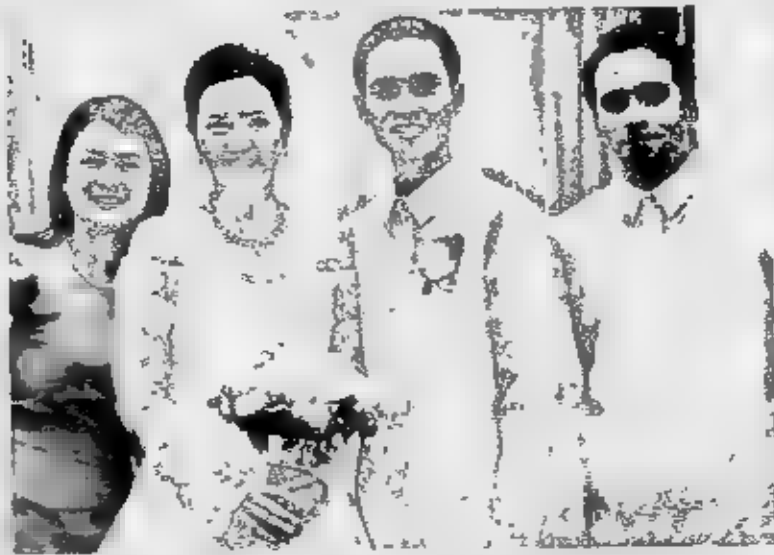


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WITH the bride's mother, Bettina Olmedo, and the groom's parents, Corazon and Vicente Socrates Arias Jr.



WITH MATRON of honor Gisella Olmedo-Araneta and best man Venice Arias



PRINCIPAL sponsors Francis Dy and Amy Loste

By Bettina Rodriguez-Olmedo
Contributor

DEAR FRANJO,

You descended upon this world like a mischievous little angel, with tongue firmly in cheek.

For starters, you chose to be born on April Fools' Day. And you also decided to go against the expectations of your daddy and me. We had been certain all along that you would be a baby boy. We even had a name ready for you—Francis Jonathan. But since you turned out to be a girl, I just changed it to fit your gender. And so we named you Francesca Joanna.

As you grew up, I realized that you were actually an Onib Olmedo Jr. You were really a chip off the old block. Just like your dad, you were kind and gentle, with a truly caring heart. You had his gift for getting along with all kinds of people. There were the kids in Sampaloc, a place your dad never wanted to leave because the neighborhood was teeming with all kinds of "characters" who inspired his soul portraits on canvas.

Then there were your classmates from St. Theresa's College in Quezon City, intelligent scholars who came from economically underprivileged families. There were days when you willingly shared with them a few pesos from your P15 daily allowance or one of your sandwiches during recess.

Your childhood years left all of us with happy memories. There were out-of-town trips with the daughters of your dad's best friend, Manny Arriola, and his wife Fe. I remember how we went up to Baguio when you were only 2 years old. We all rode in the Ferris wheel. Your dad was with you in the seat, which swayed precariously at the very top while waiting for passengers to take their seats. The Ferris wheel then whirled around faster and faster, going up and down. Suddenly, you gave out a big howl, and your dad shouted "ipara mo" to the Ferris wheel operator. The poor guy was so startled that he immediately stopped the engine, and all the passengers were practically thrown forward in their seats!

Lifetime friendships

And the years just flew by. In nursery school, you had difficulty waking up at 6 a.m. to be able to make it in time for the FX service in Mang Nick's van, which transported all the passengers to Little Angel's preschool in Quezon City. Even when you were already 4 years old, your dad would still scoop you up in his arms and whisk off his "sleeping beauty" to the Tamaraw van, as you rubbed your drooping eyelids.

In STC Quezon City you spent your elementary years, but only until Grade 5. One day, I heard you and your older sister, Bambi, chanting an unbelievable mantra: "Isa dagdag isa katumbas dalawa." Goodness gracious! I could hardly believe my ears. What was all this bilingual nonsense? Arithmetic was complicated enough without having to translate every single word into Filipino!

I also noticed that you and Bambi were fast getting into the bad habit of mixing your language registers in a horrendous hybrid of "Taglish." I told Onib we'd better look for another school.

St. Scholastica's proved to be just the school I was looking for. Learning was much more fun, because they combined alternative with traditional methods. You really enjoyed yourself, and you were able to forge friendships that would last a lifetime. Until now, Lyka Lopez and Berns Mahinay have remained your "barkada." To this day, the three of you still share your dark secrets, lots of happy memories, and also a few little heartaches.

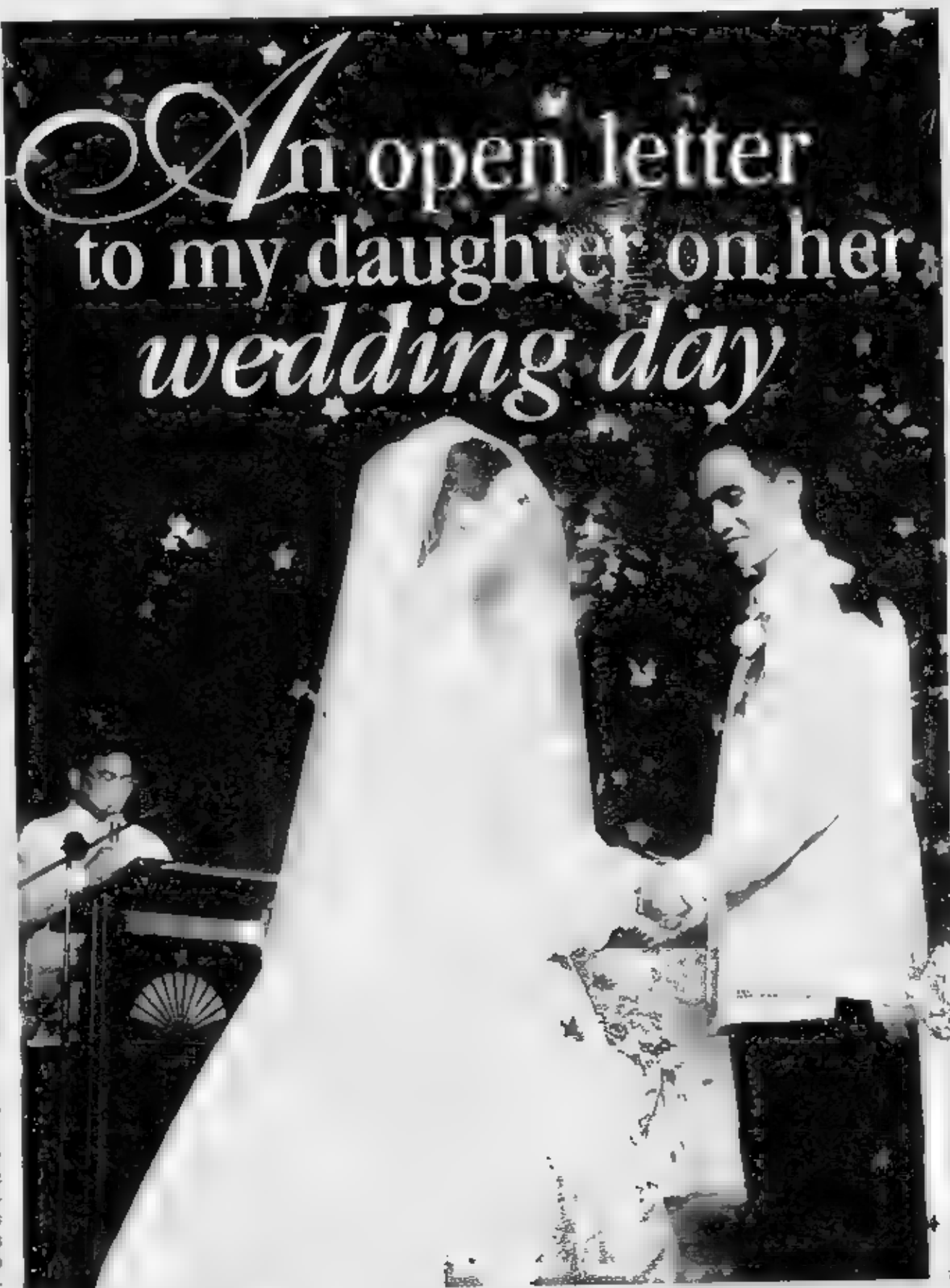
The turning point in your life came when you were 12 years old. Onib had just left for an exhibit in the United States when you came down with H fever. I had to rush you to UST hospital where your Tita Thelma, the pretty wife of your dad's friend, Raul Dizon, attended to you.

I believe that it was during this hospital confinement that you decided to become a doctor. It was then that you realized how a caring physician could really work out miracles to alleviate human pain and suffering.

And so after high school, you went right on to pursue your dream. As you took your medical course at De La Salle University, you had to put your life on hold. You became the perennial absentee during family reunions, baptisms, weddings and social gatherings.

But it was during your internship that you also met the man with whom you would share the rest of your life. He was also a doctor, and he had a funny nickname—Thurd—because he happened to be the third-generation child who carried his grandfather's name, Vicente Socrates.

I think that every girl gauges every guy she meets using the standards set by her father. Sure enough, Thurd turned out to be as kind and gentle as your daddy, and also as pro-



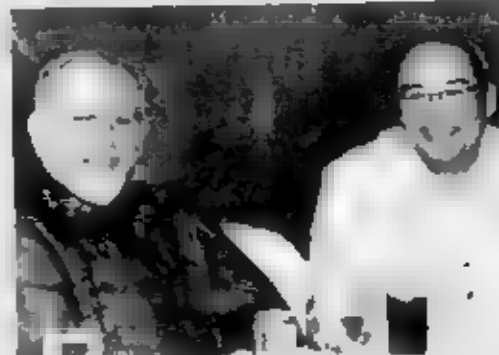
THE NEWLYWEDS underneath a shower of stars



THE GROOM'S parents, Vicente and Corazon Arias, Dr. Thelma Dizon and Allan Cosio



WITH principal sponsors Tony Olizon, Carmen Olmedo and Jun Jacinto



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CARMEN Araneta-Flor, Dr. Jaime Laya, bride's mother Bettina Olmedo and Cht Rocas



GROOMSMEN Dr. KC Villanueva, Dr. Jeronias Baigua, Ferdinand Bocobo, Arthur Enerio, Dexter Cruz, Dr. Oliver Leyson, Marlon Caguait, Roberto Brillo, and ring bearer Sebastian Raphael Araneta



BRIDESMAIDS Leah Rodriguez, Carissa Olmedo, Lyka Lopez, Gisella Olmedo-Araneta, Barbara Arespachoga, Danisse Sison, Marian Arespachoga, Mirabella Desiderio, flower girls Alexandria Mahinay, Gabrielle Nicole Olmedo, Michiko Mahinay

found. He exuded a quiet intensity which you found simply irresistible.

Beautiful wedding

And so today, as you marry the man of your dreams, I am so glad that we've been able to give you a beautiful wedding. I stood my ground on the details pertaining to the march of the entourage and the giving-away ceremonies. I saw to it that the rites at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati would be lovely and unforgettable.

To do this, I broke many of the conventional rules, but I was really so happy that we were able to pull it off. I put my favorite poems celebrating the wonder of love printed on cards on each table—with the wedding coordinator, Allen, lovingly encoding each poem by E.E. Cummings and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, among others, and features by Gilda Cordero Fernando and Cht Rocas.

The march of the sponsors and the rest of the entourage was choreographed by the coordinator, Grace, to the tune of "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love." The guests did not have to strain themselves to catch a glimpse of the bridesmaids and flower girls, because a ramp had been set up as well as a stage.

It was a Theresian, Agnes Suarez, who really helped us put together a dream wedding for you. She produced the audio-visual presentation, provided the light and sound equipment, and even the ramp. Weida, the Mandarin sales executive, was there for us during rehearsals.

As the gossamer curtains were drawn, everybody gave a collective gasp. You looked breathtakingly lovely and so ethereal in your long-sleeved lace gown. All eyes were on you as you walked down the ramp and met your groom midway, to the tune of "Tonight." It seemed as if the whole world stood still, with the essence of love distilled in all its purity when you went to meet your destiny.

After you were pronounced man and wife, lo and behold—both you and your groom were showered with tiny blue and silver stars, as the lyrics from your favorite song were chanted by Karen Carpenter: "Why do stars fall down from the skies, every time you walk by? Just like me, they long to be close to you."

I'm sure that your daddy must have been looking down from heaven. He must have been grinning from ear to ear, seeing that his little girl has now come into her own, ready to embark on a new life with a man to whom he would have given his wholehearted approval.

With my affection,
MOMMY

A book on Russia's conversion

THE CONVERSION OF RUSSIA, WHICH OUR Lady of Fatima asked the world to pray for in 1917, is chronicled in Charito Melchor's book "Divine Conspiracy: The Unfolding of the Message of Fatima in Russia."

The author tells of how the request was fulfilled in 1991 when the communist regime was replaced.

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Darang

Published early last year and available at National Bookstore, the book notes how Alex Melchor's appointment as Philippine ambassador to Russia in 1986 seemed divinely guided.

His wife Charito kept journals during their stay in Moscow. When democracy came to Russia and religious freedom was restored, Ms Melchor's journals were ready to

be turned into a book.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin called it a "divine conspiracy" for it was Ambassador Melchor who arranged Cardinal Sin's trip to Russia in 1987.

Through Cardinal Sin's talks with the Russian clergy, his hosts were encouraged to introduce religious reforms. Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, who accompanied Cardinal Sin, brought a pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima from Fatima, Portugal, as a gift to Fr. Stanislaw Moshelka, then parish priest of St. Louis Cathedral.

Former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who traveled with the group, gave an ivory image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary that she brought from Tolosa, Leyte. The images are enshrined in the cathedral.

Cultural festival

During a dinner attended by Marcos and Ms Melchor, the wife of the current ambassador to the Philippines, Valentina Nebogatova, credited the late Ambassador Melchor with the opening of Philippine-Russia diplomatic relations when he was executive secretary in 1976.

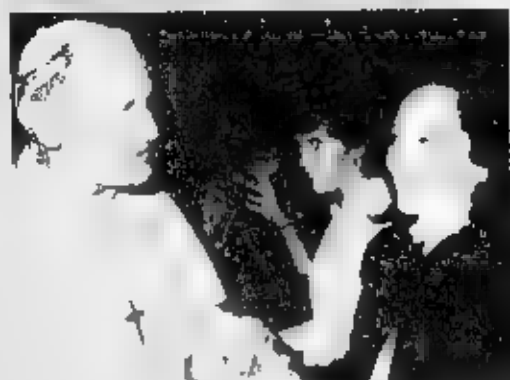
The two countries recently marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations with a "Festival of Russian Culture" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The Bolshoi Ballet performed and international concert pianist Denis Matsuev played famous concertos of Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. Matsuev's superb playing earned him a standing ovation.

It made me want to read Melchor's book for a glimpse of what Russians were like in talent and artistry and in religiosity. She told me she initially wanted to write about Russian icons that were so beautifully painted. But when the communist regime fell and religious freedom



BOSES ng Diyos all-male choir and manager Tess Alsua, sister of Mark Jimenez, who sends the boys to school.



AUTHOR Charito Melchor receives a rosary from the late Pope John Paul II.

was restored, she had to write a testimony of faith.

Russia was converted as Our Lady of Fatima wanted.

Deleted phrase

The phrase "who once was Mary" in the prayer to Our Lady of All Nations was removed in 2005 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith out of consideration for those who did not understand the meaning of the words.

In her apparition to Ida Peerdeman from 1949-1959 in Amsterdam, Mary wanted to be called Our Lady of All Nations and gave the prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The present form of the prayer is: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Spirit over the earth, let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all nations, that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster and war. May the Lady of All Nations be our advocate. Amen."

In 2002, Msgr. Punt, bishop of Harlem in Amsterdam, issued a statement recognizing the supernatural origin of the apparitions in Amsterdam.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, archbishop of Manila, enjoined, in a circular, all priests to propagate the devotion to Our Lady of All Nations. He officiated at the Concelebrated Mass last June 10 honoring Our Lady on her Day of Prayer at the Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Mandaluyong.

Novena

The Carmelite nuns in Barrio Tambacan, Burgos, Pangasinan, are inviting devotees to a

When Alex Melchor was appointed Philippine ambassador to Russia, his wife Charito kept journals during their stay

novena at 5 p.m., July 7-15, for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Feast day Mass is at 10:30 a.m., July 16, with Alaminos Bishop Jesus Cabrera as main celebrant.

Call Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at 0917-3252052.

Choir

During his two years in jail in Pennsylvania, Mark Jimenez had recurring dreams where he heard the words "Boses ng Diyos." Following his return to Manila, he brought his sister Tess Alsua in January to Bkldnon. They stayed at the Monastery of the Transfiguration.

In Malaybalay, Mark and Tess heard for the first time a male choir that to them sounded like "Boses ng Diyos." The boys were members of the Monastery of the Transfiguration Boys Choir in the '90s.

The 85 boys of the monastery choir ranged in age from 7-10. Now they are all grown up and the choir has disbanded. They are also not in school.

Mark decided to help them by reviving the choir and putting the members to school. They auditioned with a choirmaster from the Bukidnon State College. Of the 45 who auditioned, only 17 passed.

The 17 boys were brought to Manila by Mark and enrolled them in different schools. Thinking this was what he was meant to do, Mark called the choir Boses ng Diyos. Tess supervises the boys, seeing to it they continue to train under choirmaster Giovanni Macaram-

bong, a graduate of the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music.

The choir can sing during weddings and receptions. Text 0916-3627499 or call 5216623.

Choir members are: Tenor I—Val Secuya, Sherwin Gocong, Virgil Perales and Daryl Pantanal; Tenor II—Rodel Gocong, Jackstin Caontao, Ariel Dayagbil and Clarence Saba; Base I—Jecel Caontao, Leonides de la Cerna, Erwin Pantanal, Sanez Pestanas and Abelio Libante Jr.; and Base II—Renelito Gantalao, Leo Hebra, Juniel Mila and Ricky del Rosario.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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60-year-old fiancé wants to wait five more years

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 27 years old and I have a fiancé who's 33 years my senior. We met through his brother four years ago when they were visiting Manila.

He's based in the United States. We exchange e-mails, we chat, we talk on the phone and we see each other four times a year. We became engaged two years ago.

When I accepted his proposal, I thought I will only have to wait for a while and we will be married soon. But I've been waiting for him for two years now.

I already asked him when we'd get married. I am being impatient because I love him and I want us to be together soon. He told me he planned to retire from his job five years from now and we would have to wait until then.

I was shocked. Honestly, I don't like to wait for five long years. I didn't say anything because I didn't want him to think I was pressuring him.

My problem is I am beginning to doubt if he loves me enough or if I'm even included in his priorities in life. I'm wondering why we have to wait until he retires when we can be together now. He can take me with him but I think he doesn't want to do that.

Every time I bring up the topic, he seems so uninterested. He's coming to see me in July. I love him very much but I want to ask for a cooling-off period. I want to know if I am important to him.

I'm not sure if this is a good idea though. Will I be putting our relationship at risk if I do that? I don't want to lose him. I just want to know what he feels and thinks about us.

MAGGY

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo



I'm beginning to doubt if he loves me or if I'm included in his priorities'

you'll be meeting once you get to the US.

He is probably also afraid you will just use him as a stepping stone to obtain your green card, as has happened in countless May-December marriages.

The fact that he refuses to talk about marriage after two years of engagement says a lot about the guy. Unless he is hiding something from you, like a wife who still hasn't divorced him or a mistress he is keeping on the side or he is still investigating your character to see if you're a gold-digger, I don't see any impediment in tying the knot with you.

This is a damn-if-you-do-damn-if-you-don't scenario. If you ask him pointblank what in heaven's name is his reason for the five-year wait, he might consider you a nag and you might actually lose him.

And if you don't ask him, it's you who will bear the agony of being in limbo, not knowing where you actually stand in his emotional sphere.

If he insists on waiting another five years to get married, you might as well think things over. You will be 32 then and would have waited a total of seven years for an aging man to make up his mind to marry you.

Would you be willing to be possibly just a nurse/maid to a retiree who doesn't want to share his more vibrant years with you while he can; who seems to be making sure someone young will take care of him in his twilight years?

How else can you explain his non-committal stance in this relationship? What is he waiting for anyway? The coming of the next messiah? He's acting like he has plenty of time stashed away!

Do what you think is right for you. Ask for a cool-off if you wish. From my point of view, he is already cold, as it is.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER, Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalkasan Vigilante," 7-15:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on divUR 104.3 FM.

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ATIENZA-FABUNAN

Gerald Atienza, son of Gilberto and Evangelina Atienza, will marry Cherie Fabunan, daughter of Conrado and Yolanda Fabunan, on July 8 at Santisimo Rosario Parish (UST), Manila. The bride will wear a gown designed by Noli Santiago.



CO-DEL MUNDO

William Co, son of Co Ti (*) and Sy Lin, will marry Sandra del Mundo, daughter of Alejandro and Solana del Mundo, on July 13 at Santuario de San Jose. Reception will be held at Gloria Maris Sharkfins Restaurant, Greenhills Shopping Center, Mandalayong. The bride's gown was by Ysabelle.



SALCEDO-CHAN

Maria Clarissa Chan, daughter of Mr and Ms Eduardo Chan, exchanged vows recently with Jose Mari Salcedo, son of Mr and Ms Edgardo Salcedo, at the Fernwood Chapel. The bride wore a white serpentine gown with pearls and Austrian stones, while the entourage wore gowns in pomelo and centrin green, created by Jonathan Pagaduan.



IDJAO-PALOMA

Joel A. Idjao, son of Adriano Idjao and Eleanor Arnalz, recently wed Malou B. Paloma, daughter of Mrs. Marietta B. vda. de Paloma, at the Our Lady of Assumption in the Hills, Asuncion, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. Reception-dinner was held at the Mercado Rest House, Ibarra, Maasin City.



SENTURIAS DEBUT

Justine Joy Senturias, daughter of Eddie and Alicia Senturias, will celebrate her debut today, at Oasis, San Juan. She is a third-year Nursing student at University of the Philippines-Manila.



MOLINA DEBUT

Fiona Lauren A. Molina, daughter of Mr. and Ms James Molina, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at the Banquet Hall of Every Nation Building at The Fort. She wore a bustier gown of crumpled taffeta in white, with a bias tail and crystal tulle on the bodice, designed by Rem Divino.



FASTIDIO DEBUT

Junessa Zyra V. Fastidio, daughter of Salvada and Melissa Fastidio, will celebrate her 18th birthday today at the Orchard Golf and Country Club, Cavite. Paul Rex Mateo designed the debutante's gown.



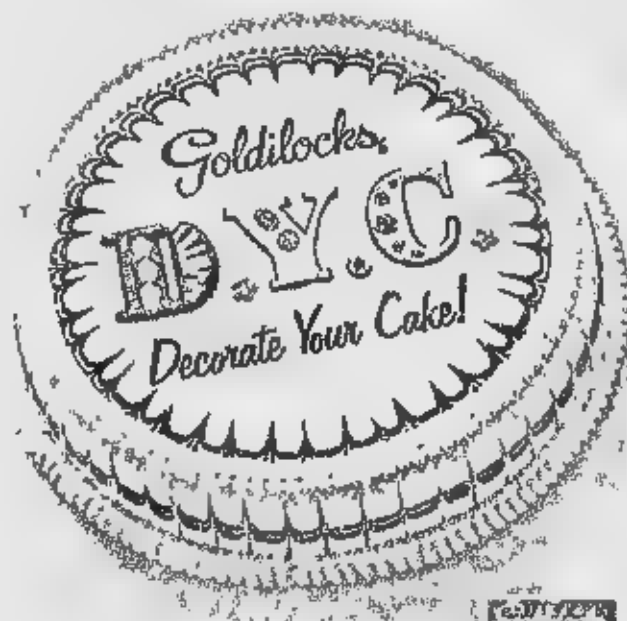
IFILL DEBUT

Zenita "Princess" Ifill of New York, USA, eldest child and only daughter of Wilfred Leslie and Myrna Ifill, will celebrate her 18th birthday on July 8 at Villa Inmaculada, Intramuros, Manila. She will be taking up BS Psychology at Long Island University, New York. Her gown was designed by Paul Mateo of The Wedding Day.



It's great to create together!

Add fun and excitement to any birthday celebration or kiddie party. Get their little hands on Goldilocks snack cakes to decorate with fun cake decors and accessories. Or surprise your kids with cakes you decorate yourself! Choose from many NYC kits and accessories to create sweet memories together.



Play the PacMan board game!

Knowledge is power, so they say. So, if you know that much about our 'Pambansang Kamao', his latest opponent Oscar Larios, and boxing in general, you'll traipse through this board game like FPJ punches on fast-forward.

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.

The object of the game is to reach the Victory block first. The game is played by at least two players. A "referee" is also needed. Each player takes turns throwing the dice, the result of which would correspond to the number of blocks the player moves. Most blocks have multiple choice questions the player should answer in order to "claim" that spot. The referee must check the answer shown at the next page. If the player answers correctly, then he or she can claim that spot. However, should the answer be incorrect, the player must move the piece back to its original position on the board.

There are also "whammy" blocks that either "boost" or "bust" each player's chances. The boost block allows the player to gain another throw with the dice. The bust block, on the other hand, makes the player lose a turn.

To win, the player must throw the exact number on the dice corresponding to the number of blocks he or she needs to land on the Victory block. For example, if the player needs to move four blocks to reach the Victory block, he or she must get a result of 4 on the dice. If the throw results in a number more than 4, the piece does not move, and the next player gets his or her turn. If the throw results in less than 4, however, the piece moves the corresponding number of blocks.

For added fun this exciting Sunday morning, invite your friends and family along and form two groups representing the "PacMan Camp" and "Chololo Camp", and pit your group's teamwork and mental fighting skills against the other. This game is great for killing time in between rounds during the televised fights.

Tip for the referee: When a player responds with a wrong answer, say "incorrect" and refrain from revealing the correct answer.

Note: The Inquirer is not responsible for actual fistfights caused by playing this board game. As always, losers should blame it on the referee.

Ready to play? Turn the page!

HETO NA ANG KAMPEON NG MGA PROMO!



ABS-CBN
July 2, 2006 Araneta Coliseum

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- Step 2: Activate your 3G handset by texting SET 3G <please mode> to 231. [Ex: SET 3G N70]
- Step 3: Phone settings will be sent to you from 233. Save the settings and key in 1234 when prompted.
- Step 4: Visit the SMART 3G portal: <http://wap.smart.com.ph/3G> or click on the SMART 3G link on the SMART website.
- Step 5: Click Mobile TV
- Step 6: Click Mano A Mano Live.

Charging is P20/day for live streaming plus access charge of P15 for 30 minutes

Para makasali:

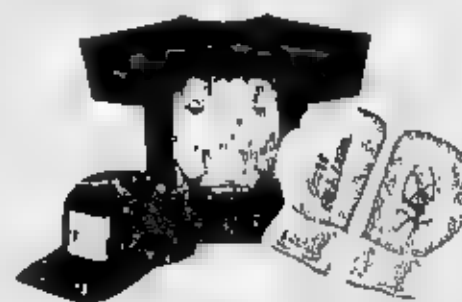
Text **PAKYAW** to 2366

to get calendar logo with trivia daily. P2.50 each.

OR

Text **LIPAD** to 2366

to get the movie theme song "Lipad ng Pangarap" and get a free ringtone upon first subscription to weekly ringtones. P15/week.



MANALO ARAW-ARAW SA DAILY DRAW!
One (1) Manny Pacquiao autographed
Mano A Mano Cap, T-Shirt or a pair of
Boxing Gloves plus P500 worth of cellphone load.

Promo duration: June 14 to August 8, 2006



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For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111. *888 using your SMART cellphone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at (02) 888-1111 and a text message to 888. (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at customer@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Panalo tayo kay Pacquiao



CUT OUT MANNY and OSCAR's picture to make them your game pieces



Before Manny donned his boxing gloves, he was

- kneading dough in a bakery
- transporting passengers on a pedicab
- directing traffic in a busy intersection
- sandpapering his guitar

Bust #1: Ouch! Wrong socks.
Lose a turn

Manny shared his PSA Athlete of the Year award in 2003 with

- Dorothy Delasin
- Efren "Bata" Reyes
- Danny Ildefonso
- Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski

Bust # 2: You're late for practice.
Lose a turn

Manny was chosen Inquirer's Filipino of the Year in

- 2001
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004

Multiply the round that Pacquiao finally stopped Marco Antonio Barrera by 5, you get

- 25
- 55
- 30
- 35

Pacquiao is married to

- Jinkee Garcia
- Anne Jamora
- Jinkee Jamora
- Pinkee Garcia

Manny is called a "southpaw" because

- He was born in the South
- He is right-handed
- He is left-handed
- He dances like he has two left feet

Boost # 1: Coach Freddie says,
"You are my son!"
Throw again

Boost # 2: Wow, 100 in videoke!
Throw again

When was Manny born?

- Dec. 17, 1978
- Dec. 17, 1979
- June 12, 1898
- March 6, 1978

Of Manny's 41 wins so far, how many have come by way of KO?

- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34

START HERE

Bulldog's demo of strength

NO OTHER ADHESIVE has gained the same level of popularity as Bulldog Super Glue. Its demonstration of strength is evidenced by a running commercial for the product.

The commercial stars actor/director Jon Achaval, whose shoes were fastened to a piece of wood using Bulldog Super Glue. After just five seconds, the 175-pound actor was himself bent as he was pulled by his leg own and the strength of Bulldog Super Glue revealed.

Using the makakaba (a traditional Filipino game), the actor was bent at the knees, and the strength of Bulldog Super Glue was revealed. The actor was bent at the knees, and the strength of Bulldog Super Glue was revealed.

Actor Jon Achaval himself was bent at the knees, and the strength of Bulldog Super Glue was revealed.

Super glue is a long time old. Bulldog Super Glue was first used in 1942. It was used to repair the shoes of soldiers and it was used to repair the shoes of soldiers.

Bulldog Super Glue is a long time old. It was first used in 1942. It was used to repair the shoes of soldiers and it was used to repair the shoes of soldiers.

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Bulldog Super Glue is a long time old. It was first used in 1942. It was used to repair the shoes of soldiers and it was used to repair the shoes of soldiers.

Manny won his World Boxing Council flyweight title on

- Dec. 6, 1998
- Dec. 7, 1998
- Dec. 8, 1998
- Dec. 9, 1998

Bust # 3: Brown out! Where's the opponent?
Lose a turn

Manny's proud parents are named

- Perfecto and Arita
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista

Manny's proud parents are named

- Perfecto and Arita
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista

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- Rosales and Dionista

Manny's proud parents are named

- Perfecto and Arita
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista

Boost # 3: Beer for everyone!
Throw again

Manny's proud parents are named

- Perfecto and Arita
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista
- Rosales and Dionista

In "Pacquiao: The Movie", Manny is played by

- Jericho Rosales
- Richard Gutierrez
- Himself
- Piolo Pascual

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2006

G1


What title is at stake in today's fight?

- a) IBF Lightweight
- b) WBC International Super Featherweight
- c) WBA Super Featherweight
- d) WBC Featherweight

**Boost # 4: 9 ball
in the pocket.
Throw again.**

2. Oscar Larios, Manny's latest opponent, is a native of

- a) Puerto Rico
- b) Colombia
- c) Mexico
- d) Cuba

Bust # 4:  Ooh, a bum stomach.
Lose a turn

Though Manny and Oscar differ in height, they measure the same in reach, which is

a) 61"
b) 63"
c) 65"
d) 67"

28

“Bakbakan sa Manula”
 featured Manny vs
 a) Serikzhan
 Yeshmangbetov
 b) Gaydarbek
 Gaydarbekov
 c) Igor Alborov
 d) Sherzod
 Abdurahmonov

Boxing became an Olympic sport in

- a) 1912
- b) 1900
- c) 1904
- d) 1896

Bust # 5: Oops! Sing
that last national
anthem note again,
please!
Back 3 blocks

Up to the early 1980s, professional boxing matches were scheduled for

- a) 12 rounds
- b) 13 rounds
- c) 14 rounds
- d) 15 rounds

Women's boxing will be an exhibition sport in the

- a) 2008 Olympics
- b) 2012 Olympics
- c) 2016 Olympics
- d) 2020 Olympics

Boost # 5: You're fighting for the home crowd. Throw again.

Answer key for the referee's eyes only

1) a 2) boost 3) c 4) c 5) a 6) bust 7) d 8) bust 9) b 10) c 11) boost 12) c 13) a 14) c 15) bust 16) a 17) b 18) a 19) d 20) boost 21) b 22) a 23) c 24) b 25) boost 26) c 27) bust 28) d 29) a 30) c 31) boost 32) a 33) d 34) bust

PACQUIAO JOINS TEAM McDONALD'S

McDonald's scores a total knock-out after bagging the former three-time WBC feather weight champion Manny 'Pacman' Pacquiao and his family as the newest endorsers of Chicken McDo. McDonald's crispy, juicy and flavorful fried chicken, Pacquiao links the deal with (from left) McDonald's chair George Yang, CEO and president Kenneth Yang and Alliance Global vice chair Andrew Tan for a year-long endorsement deal showcasing him, his wife Jinkee and their two sons in a string of advertising efforts to promote McDonald's best-seller Chicken McDo. McDonald's is the world's number one quick service restaurant, now on its 25th year of providing high-quality products at good value to Filipinos.

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LEADER OF THE PAC

This one is for the home crowd. When Manny Pacquiao climbs into the ring to face Oscar "Chololo" Larios this Sunday, July 2nd, it will be his first fight in a Filipino ring since December 2004. Previously, "the Pacman" rocked the boxing world in two epic battles versus Erik "El Terrible" Morales, establishing himself as one of the best boxers in the world. As he rose to the pinnacle of boxing, Manny has consistently dedicated every fight to his countrymen, giving all of us a true hero to cheer for.

SMART Padala Packs a Punch

Manny Pacquiao combines power with fast fists, economically picking his spots in looking for the weaknesses of his opponents. Like Manny, sending money through SMART Padala is fast and economically-friendly. SMART Padala International is a faster way of sending money from your relatives and friends who are abroad to you, right here in the Philippines. It is now available in 19 countries worldwide.

Get Free P115 SMART Load when using SMART Padala

Just in time for Manny's big fight with the Mexican Larios, SMART Padala International is giving free P115 SMART Load for beneficiaries in the Philippines who use this service. For a minimum of ₱2000 per remittance, the promo is open to SMART Money phone-linked subscribers.

at the time of remittance. Subscribers can only receive the free SMART Load once per day, and a total of three times during the entire promo period until August 31, 2006 only*.

A Sending Fee of Only P10

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For inquiries on SMART Padala, call *7788 using your cellphone or 8457788 using your landline.



How to send money through SMART Padala International

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- 2 In a few minutes, you will receive a confirmation message that money has been received in the SMART Money account in your coltana. If qualified, you will receive FREE F116 SMART Load within 48 hours.
- 3 To get the cash, you can go to any SMART Pledge Center, or use your SMART Money Card to withdraw cash from any BDO, Expressnet, or Singalink ATM.

[illegible]

*SMART Funds FREE P115 SMART Load ~~expense~~. For DTI Period No. 1623, ending 6/30/03. See Fund For Details.



How to send money through SMART Padala Domestic

- 1 Go to any SMART Payable Center and fill out a form (name, address, telephone number, and SMART Money number of your beneficiary). Subnet valid ID.
- 2 In a few minutes, your beneficiary will receive a confirmation message via text that money has been received in his account.
- 3 To get the cash, your beneficiary can go to any SMART Payable Center.

SMART Padala Centers in the Philippines:
SMART Wireless Centers: SMART Padala accredited centers • 5M Department Stores • Tambunting Pawnshops • 7-Eleven (for domestic sending only) • Video City • Agustin Pawnshops • Gan Pawnshops • Calico Pawnshops • Magdalo Pawnshops • GS Pawnshops • Subic Pawnshop • Currency Connections • PH Bank • Rural Bank of Ormoc • Sugbuhaon Rural Bank • Rural Bank of Pangasinan • Rural Bank of Davao



DAHL
SMART
TAYO



Kaliwa't kanan kung bumanat kaya knockout sa sulit!



**ALL DAY
★ TEXTING ★
UNLIMITED**

PLUS 5-MINUTE CALL

P20 for 1 day

To register

**Text 20
and send to 258**

Register anytime

To do a 5-minute call

**Dial *258
+ mobile number**

**ALL DAY
★ TEXTING ★
UNLIMITED**

P15 for 1 day

To register

**Text
and send to**

Registration is from 8am-5pm
and 7pm-10pm only



SERVICE STATION DEALERS

Needs

for

Locations

- | | | |
|--|-------|----------|
| 1. Mc Arthur Highway, Carmen, Pangasinan | P4.0M | 07/10/06 |
| 2. 122 Mc Arthur Highway, Marulas, Valenzuela City | P4.0M | 07/31/06 |
| 3. Tanauan, Batangas | P5.0M | 07/31/06 |

Note Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:

- a. Must be able to put up required capitalization,
- b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis,
- c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms Rosette P. Sanchez at tel 563-8521 Loc. 282. Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Dolores
Province of Eastern Samar
Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: July 2, 2006
Contract ID No. SP-078-IN-01
World Bank Loan No. 446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the **Construction of Riverbank Development**. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines. Procurement under IBAD Loans and IDA Credits*.
2. The Municipality of Dolores, Eastern Samar invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the **Construction of Riverbank Development** consists of Embankment, Drainage & Slope Protection structure, River Control Component & Concrete Pavement.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting July 3, 2006 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal Engineering Office, Dolores, Eastern Samar upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00)** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of **ninety (90) days** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of **Nine Hundred Thousand Pesos (P900,000.00)** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the **BAC Secretariat, SB Session Hall, 3rd floor Municipal Building Dolores, Eastern Samar on August 2, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **July 20, 2006; 10:00 A.M. at the SB Session Hall 3rd floor, Municipal Building Municipality of Dolores, Eastern Samar**.

(Sgt.) Engr JUDITH P. ORAYA
BAC Chairman

«РНИ» 1997, 2, 20(104)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to Inform the public that **MR. NORMAN G. NOLASCO** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Prime Peak Properties Ltd., Inc effective June 22, 2006.

Any transaction entered into or made through him for the company shall not be honored.

(PDF - July 2, 2008)



This is to inform the public that **MR. ROMEO T. PALACPAC** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with Prime Peak Properties Ltd., Inc effective June 28, 2006.

Any transaction entered into or made through him for the company shall not be honored.

MDs, new law grads




PASCUAL



ANTONIO

DRS. TERESA PAZ B
Grecia Pascual and
Tomas S. Antonio, fel-
lows of the Philippine
Society of Otolaryngol-
ogy-Head and Neck
Surgery (PSO-HNS) re-
cently graduated from
the UP College of Law
and Araullo University's
Law School
Cabanatuan City, re-
spectively. Pascual obtained her law degree last
April while Antonio got his degree last year.
Among the top 20 outstanding graduates of Batch
2006 of the UP College of Law, Pascual is a prac-
ticing otolaryngologist and a diplomat of the



ANTONIO

Philippine Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. While still maintaining her clinical practice and consultant status at the De La Salle Medical Center and Veterans Memorial Medical Center, she is presently reviewing for the bar examinations in September. Antonio, on the other hand, also holds a master's degree in Hospital Administration from UP-Manila and as a Medical Specialist II at the Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center.

Dr. William Rothwell in Manila

RETENTION AND management of key talents are crucial to the continued success of an organization. Traditional management approaches on new generation talents lead to discontent and eventual

loss of these talents to competitors. The strategic advantage of a company, therefore, is not solely on technology or liquidity. Rather, Talent Management and Talent Development are the keys to

Competency-based Human Resource Management has been used by countless organizations in their struggle to develop and manage their high potentials.

Together with Values-Modeling, organizations can now leverage up their productivity by identifying these elements of enduring success and integrating these into their human resource systems. This blueprint may just be your competitive advantage as well.

Reinvent Human Resources Management in your organizational Institute of Training and Development (ITD) Consulting Group brings you, Dr William J. Rothwell, the Mega Guru of Strategic Talent Management, Competency and Values Modeling. Dr Rothwell is President of Rothwell and Associates Inc and a professor in Pennsylvania State University See and hear him live on July 13-14, at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila

Revolutionize your organizations and be one step ahead of the competition! Register Now! You can call ITD Consulting Group at 887 7428 or email itdmanila@ud.com.my.

POWERSPEAK'S SEMINAR IN CEBU

PowerSpeak held its second batch of Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar (PALs) in Cebu last May 26, 27 and 28, 2006 at the Cebu Grand Hotel. The graduates attest that the three-day seminar was highly experiential and insightful, providing them with an enlightening fresh perspective towards life. PALs is based on the fundamental principle that each individual possesses unlimited, untapped potential and unlocking these allows a person to achieve greater results and abundance. Photo shows the graduates of PALs with the facilitator Joey P. Reyes 3rd in the middle wearing a suit. PALs Cebu batch 3 is slated on July 7, 8 and 9 at the Cebu Grand Hotel while in Manila is on July 28, 29 and 30 in Makati. Interested parties in Manila may inquire at (02) 8405958 and (02) 840-5960, or text 0917-5555639 and in Cebu (032) 2722700 or 0917-3252952. You may also email them at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

AMA BANK OPENS BRANCH IN BAGUIO CITY

AMA Bank, the largest used car loan bank opened a new branch at Baguio City. Present in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left) AMA Bank EVP/COO Alejandro Soliman, AMA Bank Baguio Branch Manager Leticia Reyes, AMA Bank Cashier Virginia Famarin, AMA Bank Client Purificacion Tanglae, Baguio Bishop Carito Cenzon, Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon, AMA Bank Branch Manager Lourdes Quitarlano, and AMA Bank AYP Roberto Bombasi.

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FOR SALEREAL ESTATE
FOR SALEREAL ESTATE
FOR SALE

FOR SALE

LOT

FOR LEASE

CAR LOAN

NEGOSYO NG BAYAN

BARATO NA, GA-AN PA SA BULSA !!!

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1. HALLA 332-EE Chocor Rd

TLA 392 / TFA 488

2. Lot / Lot 48 Bk 13 / LA 72

3. Lot / Lot 49 Bk 13 / LA 72

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ROSARIO OCO APACIBLE

of Goa, Camarines Sur and Manila

Wife of the late Dr. Mariano B. Apacible, Sr., Ph.D.

Peacefully joined her Creator
on June 30, 2006 at the age of 97.

She is survived by her children, Mariano Buenaventura, Jr. and Mariquita, Dulce Paz vda. de Aragon, Ma. Nenuca and Deogracias Bustos, Jr., Frine Lydia Kates, Medardo Benjamin and Corazon, Ma. Theresa Acuña, Marvin Bienvenido and Marivic, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 6, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2 p.m. Mass.

TAN SIU GIN

(NENA TAN JAO)

of Sta. Cruz, Marinduque & Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 29, 2006
at the age of 96.

Her beloved husband, Jao Bio Chiong (†); loving children Sancho & Isabel, Eufonio (Efren) & Mary, Renato (Rene) & Maxima, Adalia & Victor Uy (†), Dionisio (Jun) & Rosario, Helen (†) & Henry Tan, Liberato (Levi) & Ana Maria; grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 1 (Ascension), La Funcaria Paz, C.M Recto Ave., Manila.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 6, 2006 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque at 1:00 p.m.

10TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY In loving memory of

TEOFISTA HENSON DANGANAN VDA. DE QUIASON

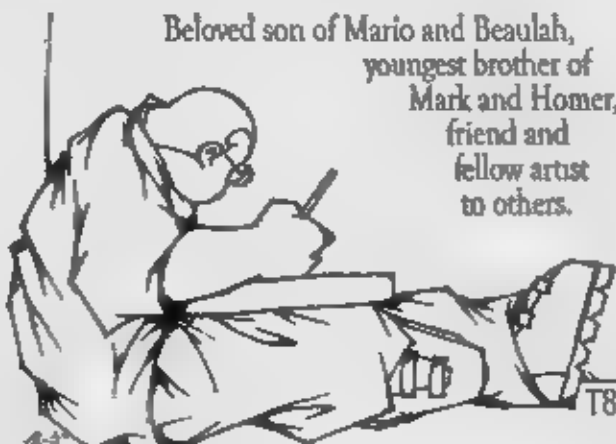
September 16, 1902 - July 4, 1996
Angeles, Pampanga, Cagayan
and Cubao, Quezon City

Holy masses will be offered at the following churches.

- Holy Rosary Parish Church (Angeles City, Pampanga) - 6:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph de Cagayan Parish Church (Lantana St., Cubao, Quezon City) - 6:30 a.m.
- Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish Church (Lantana St., Cubao, Quezon City) - 7:00 a.m.
- Christ the King Parish Church (Green Meadows, Quezon City) - 7:00 a.m.
- Parish of the Holy Sacrifice Church (U.P. Diliman, Quezon City) - 6:00 a.m.
- Sacred Heart Parish Church (Kamuning, Quezon City) - 6:00 a.m.
- The Nativity of the Lord Parish Church (Ermita Garcia, Cubao, Quezon City) - 6:30 a.m.
- Sanctuario de San Jose Church (Greenhills, San Juan) - 7:15 a.m.
- St. John Seminary, Diocese of Los Angeles (Los Angeles, California) - 7:00 a.m.
- Queenship of Mary Parish Church (Plainsboro, New Jersey, USA) - 7:00 a.m.
- St. Dennis Church (Los Angeles, CA) - 7:30 a.m.

The families of Camilo and Serafin are kindly requesting all their loved ones, relatives, close friends and pious readers to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of her spirit.

In Loving Memory on the third death anniversary of Miguel Antonio P. Taguiwalo (October 18, 1984 - July 2, 2003)



Beloved son of Mario and Beulah,
youngest brother of
Mark and Homer,
friend and
fellow artist
to others.

We called him Mike.
His brother called him Bones.
His friends called him Tagui.
He signed his artworks T8. And also Tagui8.

"For what is it to die, But to stand in the sun and melt
into the wind? And when the Earth has claimed our
limbs, then we shall truly dance." Kahlil Gibran

TO DEAR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE CESAR T. ARCE

CES' TIME IN THIS WORLD WAS CUT
SHORT BY A FATAL HEART CONDITION
HE DID NOT KNOW HE HAD.
CES WAS 50 YEARS OLD.

WE, HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY, THANK YOU
FOR THE LOVE, TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP
YOU ACCORDED HIM DURING HIS LIFETIME.
HE SPOKE KINDLY OF ALL OF YOU
AND OFTEN SAID HE WOULD NEVER
FORGET THE WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIPS
YOU ALLOWED HIM TO ESTABLISH
WITH EACH OF YOU.

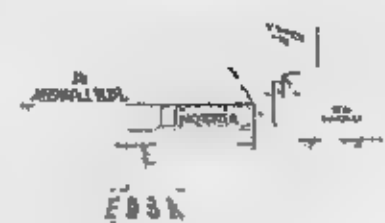
HOW GRATEFUL AND APPRECIATIVE
WE ARE OF THOSE WHO CONDOLED,
COMFORTED AND SUPPORTED US DURING
CES' WAKE AND BURIAL. INDEED, YOU
ALL SHOWED OUR FAMILY THAT FRIENDS
AND RELATIVES ARE THE MOST VALUABLE
TREASURES IN THIS LIFE.
GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



CESAR JULIAN T. ARCE
18 OCTOBER 1955 - 27 JUNE 2006

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Joy, Arnold, Randy & Arnel



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891 G/F, ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG.
AURORA BLVD.
COR. OXFORD ST.
CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
TEL. NO.: 812-9008 TO 11
Contact Persons:
Aileen, Pat, Adel & Iris

ROMEO 'MIMI' ILAGAN CRUZ

originally from Taal, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents
PILAR DIOKNO ILAGAN CRUZ and ANTONIO CRUZ
on June 29, 2006.

His bereaved sister and sister-in-law, Fa and Lourdes, nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 5, 2006.

"I am the way,
the truth and
the life. No one
comes to
the Father
except
through Me."
John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

Pinoy paper company thrives amidst multinational brands

IT'S A GIVEN FACT THAT local brands face stiff competition from their international rivals. However, succeeding in a very competitive market isn't unattainable, as shown by Sanitary Care Products Asia (SCPA), the company behind some of the most trusted local tissue paper brands.

Celebrating its 10th successful year, SCPA has steadily grown to become a major importer of high quality raw materials that it uses to produce brands like the Sanicare hygienic tissue line and the Cheers household napkins, both of which are becoming the top-ranked hygienic paper brands in many major supermarkets in their respective segments. SCPA also has two other brands that feature imported materials, namely Tisyu and Femine, which are marketed towards upward-moving Pinoy and quality conscious women. All products are made using ultra-hygienic 100% virgin pulp, and made even special because it does not use artificial whiteners.

People in the know can discern virgin pulp tissue nowadays because of its distinct off-white appearance, evidence of the non-usage of whitening chemicals and chlorine. Also, the feel of virgin pulp paper is softer but, because it has never been

recycled before, it retains its wet strength, making it a lot less likely to produce lint or lint.

The decreased lint/humidol content is very important because tissue paper comes in contact with our skin, which is why promoting the use of hygienic virgin pulp stock is a major concern and practice constantly observed by SCPA.

SCPA takes pride in the fact that it is one of the few all-Pinoy companies that can flourish in today's highly-competitive business environment. "We've always believed that product quality and affordability go hand in hand to satisfy consumers," says SCPA Vice-President, Mr. Ven Sio.

Another factor that lets SCPA compete with global brands is its strong trade suppliers from various countries. Currently, SCPA is able to offer low-cost, high quality tissue paper because of its supply chain methods. It imports bulk tissue paper in high quality jumbo rolls from countries with large, modern facilities and low production expenses. Mr. Sio adds, "In many ways, we are also a global company because we recognize the technical advantage of these countries and utilize our resources to take these superior products and make it available

to Filipinos."

From its humble beginnings in Taguig, SCPA has indeed grown to become a major and respected player in the paper tissue industry. In the future, the company looks to expand its horizons by opening new factories in the country's southern region and possibly finding more high quality products to add to its lineup.

Currently SCPA is busy educating consumers about the virtues of the virgin pulp stock, a thrust that the company takes seriously. "We want to emphasize to our consumers that we will continue to offer affordable tissue paper products without compromising on quality. We wish to make consumers realize that they must never settle for poor quality just to enjoy products that are within their budget," says Sio.

Indeed, SCPA takes the lead that local companies have the capacity to compete and even outshine their multinational counterparts. All it takes is a sincere commitment to excellence and quality, values that SCPA has always adhered to faithfully.

All SCPA products are found in major grocery and convenience stores nationwide. For more corporate and product information, please contact their trunk line at 838-7301/ 02 or visit http://www.sanicare.com.ph.

PNU Board of Regents elects new president

AFTER THREE MONTHS thorough search undertaken by the Search Committee headed by Dr. Minda C. Sutarita, the PNU Board of Regents chaired by Dr. Nenallyn P. Defensor (CHED commissioner) elected lawyer Lizardo B. Barbo as the new PNU president. Barbo replaced Dr. Nilo L. Rosas and will serve a term of four years beginning June 27.

Lawyer Barbo is a graduate of the Philippine Normal College Class 1966 and taught for four years at Llorente, Eastern Samar, became a Research and Trial Attorney and a consultant of many public and private organizations. He served as a three-term Governor of Eastern Samar and was a recipient of the Langkod Bayan Presidential Award of the Civil Service Commission in 1997. He is currently a faculty member of Ateneo School of Governance. He brings to the university wide-range of managerial skills as it responds to the demands of its stakeholders: faculty, students and alumni towards PNU's modernization.

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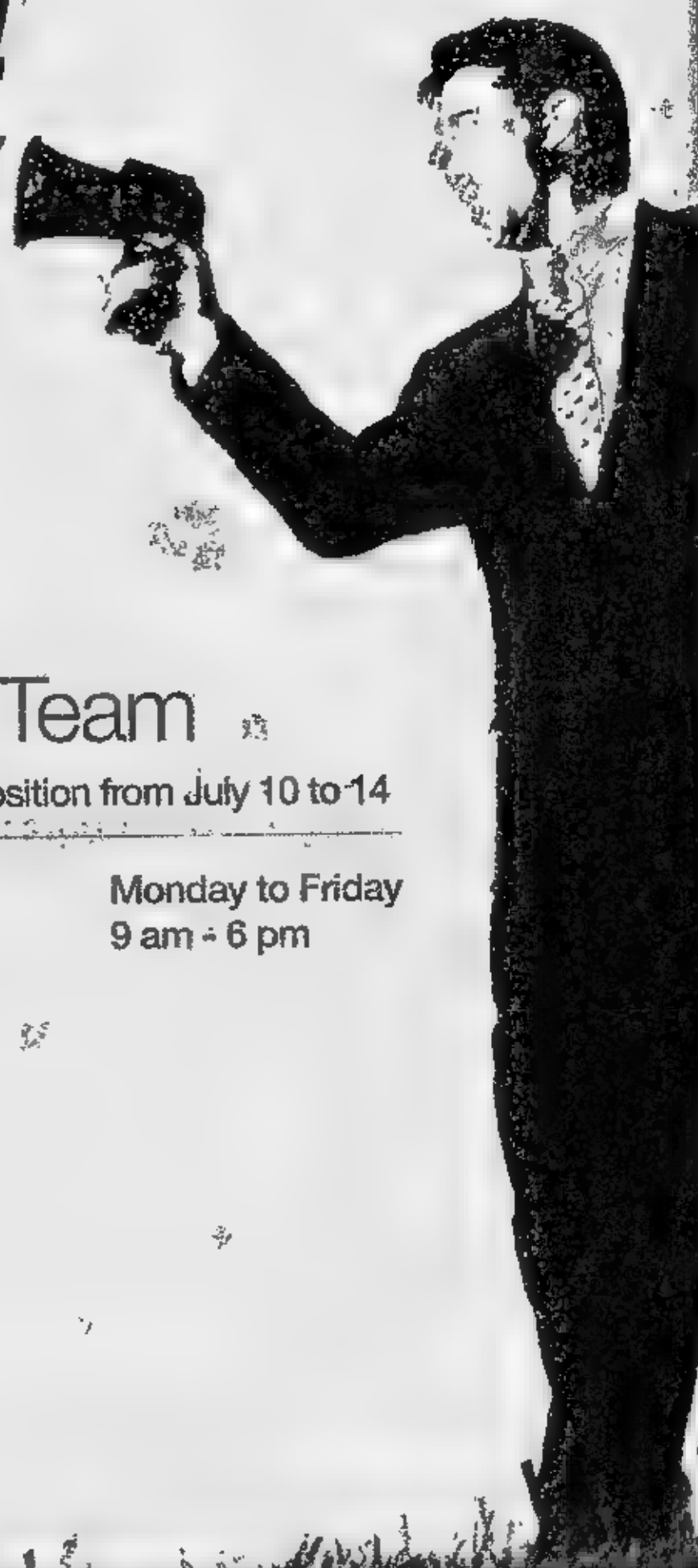
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Brace Yourselves! Big Blue is on its way to Commonwealth.



The IBM Daksh Recruitment Team

will be processing applications for the customer care specialist position from July 10 to 14

Nissan Commonwealth Building
41 Commonwealth Avenue,
Brgy Holy Spirit Quezon City

Monday to Friday
9 am - 6 pm

Talent for Innovation

IBM Daksh Business Process Services Philippines Inc.



Also be a part of the Workforce Management and Quality Teams

Openings and Qualifications:

Workforce Specialists

- Must have an extensive background on reporting and analyzing
- Must be highly proficient in MS Excel
- Should be adept in data manipulation, collection, and analysis
- Should be knowledgeable in Real-Time Analytics and Monitoring
- Must be skilled in database management and information technology
- Workforce experience is not a requirement but an advantage.
- If without Workforce experience, the following are also qualified:
 - Management Information System (MIS) Specialists
 - Reporting Analysts
 - Systems Analysts
 - Financial Analysts
 - Quality Analysts

Workforce Leaders

- Must have at least six (6) months experience as a Workforce Leader
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in Workforce

Quality Specialists

- Must be highly proficient in MS Excel reporting and adept in other PC skills
- Must be familiar with Quality concepts.
- Must have background on conducting transactional monitoring and coaching to CSRs and in conducting support documentation and training as needed by the account
- Should have qualities of openness in working with multiple cultures and willingness to work on a rotating schedule to support US, EMEA

Quality Manager

- Should have at least six (6) years experience in a related field
- Must have SPO experience, preferably in Operations, or Assistant Managers/Managers specializing in Customer G-voice or equivalent
- Must have experience in project implementation

Workflow Manager

- Must have at least a minimum of 2 - 4 years hands-on experience in directly managing a team in a call center environment
- Must be highly proficient in MS Excel and data analysis.
- Working knowledge of IEX software and Real Time Monitoring

Young? Energetic? Ambitious?

Prove that you have got what it takes to be a successful leader even at a young age. Be one of our Customer Care Specialists for any of our Fortune 500 client Companies:

- Telecommunications (Voice Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
- HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin & Cantonese)
- Internet Shopping Company (Email/Chat Support)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2-year vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule rotating environment

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105 Paseo de Roxas St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Philippines 1226

or e-mail : human.resources@incoho.com



British High Commission Singapore seeking

High quality applicants, with appropriate experience and qualifications, and excellent spoken English for.

COOK

Must have experience in western cooking and catering for large occasions (up to several hundred people) and an ability to maintain accurate financial records. Salary would depend on age, experience and ability, with a maximum Singapore \$ equivalent of Pesos 70,000 per month

BUTLER/GARDENER/HANDYMAN

Needs to have relevant previous experience and be educated to a good standard. Actual salary would depend on age, experience and ability with a maximum Singapore \$ equivalent of Pesos 55,000 per month.

Both positions attract an additional bonus of two months' salary in December and an additional annual bonus based on performance. Generous holidays, free accommodation to a good standard, health care scheme and free passage from Manila to Singapore and return at end of contract are provided

Deadline

Deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 14 July.

How to apply

To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope, a copy of your CV, contact telephone number, 2 x 2 photograph and a hand-written letter explaining your suitability for the position to

HR Manager (Cook or Butler)
British Embassy
17/F LV Locsin Bldg
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila
Philippines

Applicants should be available for interview in Manila from 24 to 26 July
References will be taken up and NBI clearances will be required before appointments are confirmed. Tentative start date for both positions is mid September
Enquiries about these vacancies will not be entertained and only successful applicants will be notified.



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our branches and get
ready to reach the top
of the corporate ladder**



Metro Manila and Soon To Open Branch SM Lipa

Building Administration Manager/Office

(Sta. Rosa)

The successful candidate will be reporting to the Branch Operations Manager of the assigned branch. He will be responsible for the overall supervision of the efficient operation of electrical and mechanical equipment such as air conditioning, plumbing, sanitation and building facilities; will ensure the maintenance of cleanliness and attractiveness of the common areas in accordance to company standards and will lead the maintenance personnel in the operations.

- male, not over 35 years old
- graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity
- able to lead a group, prioritize work load and meet deadlines

Customer Service Manager/Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for planning, coordinating, controlling and directing customer service operations and functions in the assigned branch department.

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing; able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

Selling Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

- male/female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chains or in sales in the same capacity
- ability to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

Counter & Checking Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible in cashiering operations, cash transactions and overall supervision of personnel in the department.

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in bank operations or counter-cashier functions and familiar with credit card transactions

Warehouse Manager / Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group

- male, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business
- ability to lead, motivate, and foster team work in the department

Customer Relations Service Manager

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company.

- male/female, not over 35 years old
- male must be at least 5'5 1/2" and female must be at least 5'2" in height, physically fit
- graduate of Criminology or any 4-year Business course
- with at least 1 year experience in handling security matters and personnel
- with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior
- with keen investigations skills; detail-oriented
- willing to be assigned in provincial branches and can work on extended hours

Branch Trainer

The ideal candidate will conduct and monitor training programs in the assigned branch; will evaluate and execute follow through measures for training programs conducted; will handle administrative tasks and program coordination for other training related activities.

- male/female, not over 32 years old
- graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year Business course
- with 2 years related work experience
- familiar with training needs analysis, designing, implementing and evaluating of training programs related to behavior and skill modification of employees
- with excellent written and oral communication skills
- with high level of computer literacy

Office Assistant

(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)

- female, not over 25 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year Business course
- personable, fast learner and flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours



We are one of the LEADING Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) committed to providing comprehensive and quality health and medical care services and we invite performance-oriented and highly qualified professionals to join our dynamic team. We are in urgent need of:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- Preferably a graduate of any business related course
- Male/Female, preferably single
- With pleasing personality & good interpersonal skills
- Must be determined & goal driven
- With above average communication skills

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Preferably a graduate of Marketing or any business related course; with pleasing personality
- With excellent oral & written communication skills
- Male/Female, preferably single
- Computer literate; willing to do field work

NURSES

- A graduate of BS Nursing, licensed / unlicensed
- M/F, with pleasing personality

TRAINERS

- A graduate of any four year course preferably AB Comm. Arts, Marketing or any medical related course
- M/F, preferably single
- With at least 1 year work experience; with pleasing personality
- With very good written & communication skills
- Willing to do field work; computer literate

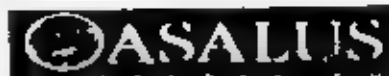
CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any medical related course
- Preferably residents of Metro Manila & Southern Luzon
- Male / Female, preferably single
- Computer literate; willing to work on shifting schedules

HR OFFICER / SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Bachelor's / College degree in Human Resource Management or its equivalent
- With adequate exposure in human resource management as an officer or supervisor
- Highly skilled in sourcing/interviewing applicants
- Proficient in MS Office
- Preferably single; with pleasing personality

Interested parties may submit their resumé, photocopied transcript of records, with 2x2 picture at:



7th/F Feliza Bldg. V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makat. City
Tel. No. 894-33-86

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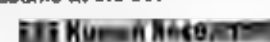
A Home Health Company in the States is in need of

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to do outsourcing projects.

- Female
- Age 25-40
- With at least 2 years experience
- Passed local board
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- Proficient in Typing
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Give answers, solve issues, and provide solutions to customers of top companies in telecommunications, finance, and entertainment.

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(Makati or Ortigas)

Gather feedback, do follow-ups, and facilitate collections among customers of leading organizations in research, finance, and roadside assistance.

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

Troubleshoot technical problems, provide step by step instructions, and help customers of premier internet service providers get back online.

FINANCIAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

(Ortigas)

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We are a highly diversified human resource management services company with over 40 subsidiaries, affiliates and joint ventures under our portfolio. Our company vision propels us to move as one in pursuing our business goals. We offer a long-term partnership to individuals who can share with us our "PASSION FOR BETTER WAYS". This invitation is for individuals who want to become a member of the ABOITIZ GROUP, who are open to challenges while exploring opportunities for career growth.

Abotiz & Company Inc. is a human resource management and recruitment company established in the late 1980s. It is the premier leading company of the group to family business. It provides services in the Philippines, with a focus on human resource management, recruitment and training. It is a member of the ABOITIZ GROUP, which is a group of companies that are part of a diversified holding company. It is a group of companies that are part of a diversified holding company. It is a group of companies that are part of a diversified holding company.

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ORACLE DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

The person reports directly to the IT Infrastructure Head. The person is primarily responsible for maintenance, optimization & maximum availability of Oracle 9i databases. Other tasks may include but not limited to general troubleshooting, data backup and recovery, performance tuning and installation/configuration of Oracle server software and products.

The job requires the following competencies:

- Must be a graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT-related course
- Must possess a minimum of 3 years work experience in Oracle 9i RAC Database Administration
- Must be proficient in UNIX/ LINUX System Administration
- Must be a team player and have good interpersonal skills
- Preferably with Oracle 11i Applications background
- Preferably with Project Management orientation
- Preferably with server hardware and storage background
- Preferably with Oracle DBA Certification
- Willing to travel occasionally
- Position is Cebu-based

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Qinteraction Philippines, Inc.
8th Floor, BPI Buendia Center
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

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Bigfoot Entertainment Phils., Inc. thrives on taking new approaches in international film and television production and cultivating global talent through film financing and education. The International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. cultivates filmmakers through hands-on immersion and workshop programs with mentors from Hollywood and other film capitals of the world. We are looking for people to fill in the following positions:

Producer for Reality TV Show

Shall drive the Executive Producer's concept from development thru distribution.

- Must have 5 to 7 years experience as a Producer with 3 years reality TV show background
- Having worked in an Asian environment is a plus
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication, Advertising or equivalent
- Has a keen eye for overall production elements and excellent budgetary control

Writer

Shall develop projects, generate show ideas, assist in casting, write show segments, write dialogue for hosts/presenters/on-air personalities, compose and edit scripts, prepare on-air commercial and promotional copy for the broadcast program

- Has at least 2 to 4 years experience as a writer and/or producer of a reality TV show
- Must be familiar with the overall production process of a reality TV show
- Has strong writing skills and can communicate effectively thru writing
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism or equivalent



School Director - Film School

Shall create the environment and systems necessary to promote and support the success of the school's program.

- Candidate must possess a College Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Master's Degree and/or Doctorate preferred but not required
- Experience in Media, Entertainment, Film
- Experience in the academe, in teaching or administrative capacity

Credit and Collection Manager

Shall help set up the structure, policies and procedures for the credit and collection group.

- At least 2 years experience in billing and collection in distribution DVD etc.
- SAP knowledge an advantage
- Must possess at least a College/Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy preferably CPA
- Has strong interpersonal skills and knows how to communicate with various levels in the organization

Executive Director for Marketing

Shall be responsible for the overall Marketing and communication of BF-E and all of its divisions.

- At least a College Degree in Business Management, Marketing, Communications, Media Studies or related arena. MBA is a plus but not required
- At least 7 years management experience in corporate marketing environment
- At least 2 years at Management level in a multiple facet company, specifically with some experience in entertainment, arts or digital technology arena
- Excellent project management skills and history

Marketing Communications Coordinator for Film School

To assist with the project management of the Company's printed and electronic publications.

- At least 2 years experience in public relations or marketing communications
- Regional experience in entertainment or media industry a plus
- Ability to develop, write, edit and produce effective communication pieces
- At least a College Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Public Relations, Marketing or equivalent

Account Manager

Shall be responsible for the sales of the services and products of BF-E and specific divisions.

- At least 2 years at Management level in a multiple facet company, specifically with some experience in entertainment, arts or digital technology arena
- International/regional exposure coupled with the ability to work and interact across cultures
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as public speaking skills
- Must possess at least a College/Bachelor's degree in Business Management/Marketing, Media Studies or related arena. MBA is a plus

We are also pooling applicants for the following positions:

- Web Developers
- Video Editors
- Animators
- Foley Artists
- Sound Engineer
- IT Specialists

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The country's leading Non-Bank Financial Intermediary Services Industry is in need of a:

MARKETING ASSISTANT/ARTIST

QUALIFICATIONS

- Male or Female
- Single between 22 to 27 years of age
- Fine Arts Graduate or any related courses
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop and Corel Computer Application
- Must have at least 1 year experience in Graphic layout design
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude and good moral character
- Good in both oral and written communication in English

Applicants may please present themselves with detailed resume, most recent ID picture, college diploma, transcript of records, NBI and Police clearance and most recent employer certificate.

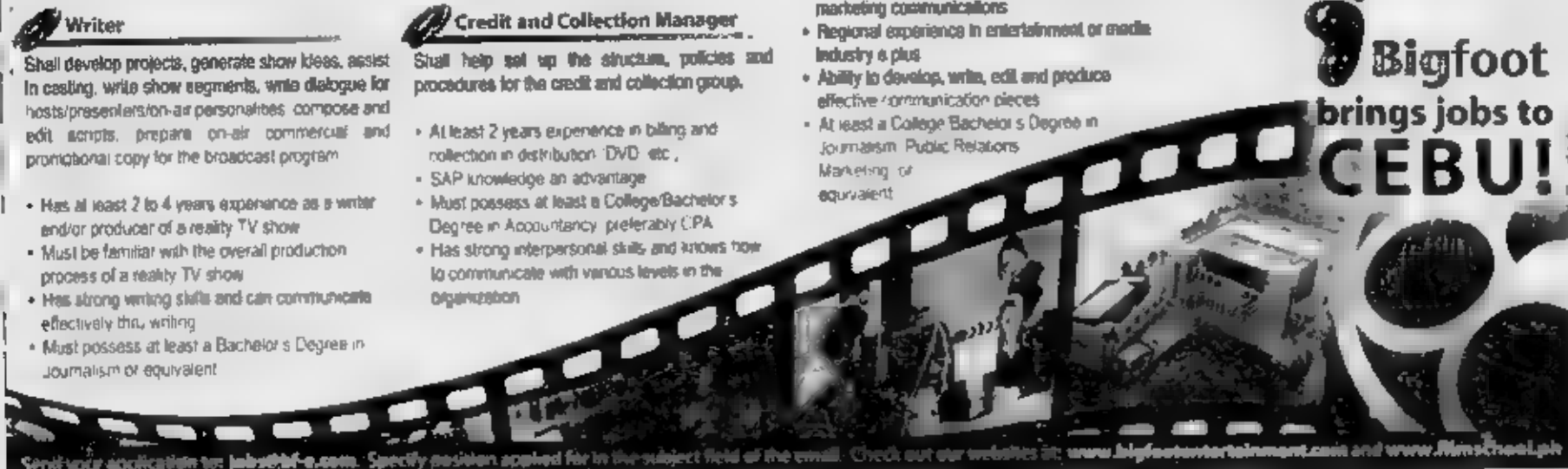
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
2nd Floor, Unit 203 Heart Tower Condominium
103 Velero St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

WANTED

Sales Rep 21-28 years old, College graduate or college level, willing to do field work. Email resume to info@fairbright.com or fax to 8927362

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Tel. No. 831-8258/931-3678



Send your application to: jobs@bf-e.com. Specify position applied for in the subject field of the email. Check out our websites at: www.bigfootentertainment.com and www.film-school.ph

Associate Computer Systems Analyst

Responsibilities

The position designs, supports and maintains the Comprehensive Loan Accounting and Services System (CLASS) involving medium to high-level technical complexity, either through the leadership of an independent project team or through participation in major systems development projects as principal member.

For more details about the position, please see <http://www.adb.org/employment/Local/default.asp>

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Senior Collaborative and Web Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business Administration, Accounting, Engineering, or related areas
- at least 5 years experience in programming using Oracle platform, of which 3 to 4 years are on applications related to accounting, banking and/or finance
- proficiency in systems analysis and design, preparation of functional and detailed specifications design, and programming, testing and data analysis
- proficiency in programming using standard SQL and PL/SQL
- familiarity with data warehousing concept and reporting tools such as Oracle Discoverer or COGNOS Report Net
- good knowledge of Oracle tools including JDeveloper, Application Object Library (AOL), and use of Oracle APIs

- knowledge of Visual LANS development platform, Java, HTML, and XML will be a plus
- good working knowledge in the system development/implementation hardware/software platforms used in a multilateral institution
- good oral and written communication skills, and ability to work well with others
- good supervisory skills
- a good working knowledge of software tools such as Lotus Notes and MS-Office suite

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multilateral staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. ECT-ASM-129(4)-OIST and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/employment/applform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 14 July 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank **ADB**



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PHINMA EDUCATION NETWORK

Is in need of:

BRAND/MARKETING MANAGER

Candidates must be have:

- Male/Female, 35 to 45 years old
- MBA degree preferred (AIM, Ateneo, La Salle, UP)
- Must have 5 to 8 years experience in marketing or brand management in the consumer or telecom industry
- Sales experience is an advantage
- Preferably with experience in marketing educational services
- With good people skills
- Willing to travel and be stationed in the provinces from time to time

This position is for immediate hiring.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and copy of transcript of records to:

PHINMA-HR, 12F Phinma Plaza,
#39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
E-mail: hdpicson@phinma.com.ph
Fax no. 870-0466

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JOB Market

PMAP seminars for July

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines is sponsoring a program entitled Managing the Training and Development Function which will be held on July 6-7. Registration fee is P5,750 for PMAP member and P7,250 for Non PMAP member. The program is an introductory module on how to effectively manage the training and development in an organization. It includes the basic principles and processes of training and development. It is designed for new training managers and for those who are newly assumed in the training function.

A three-day workshop on Competency Design and Development Workshop will be held on July 11-13. Registration fee is P7,850 for PMAP member and P9,400 for Non PMAP member. It is a Foundational module designed to prepare the Learners to draft their own specific competency framework plan that will eventually be the starting point of a customized competency framework in their organizations. Workshop approach will be used extensively with lectures to clarify certain points making use of the vast learning experiences of the Learners in the program.

The program entitled Managing the Rewards Management Function is scheduled on July 18. Registration fee is P3,500 for PMAP member and P5,000 for Non PMAP member. It is an introductory module that focuses on the basic principles and processes of rewards management, from planning, design, administration and communication.

All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

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TrainingManager, Leadership and Development • Transcription Trainer
Communications Trainer (Manila and Cebu) • Sales Trainer
Travel Trainer (with GDS experience) • Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila and Cebu) • Course Developer**Sales**

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Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance Manager

Information TechnologyConsulting Manager (Project Implementation) • Network Engineer (CISCO)
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PeopleSupport, Inc. is one of the largest and leading business process outsourcing (BPO) providers in the Philippines. Over 6,000 employees are spread out among world-class facilities in Manila, Cebu and Costa Rica, and its headquarters in Los Angeles, California, USA.

PeopleSupport provides customer management, transcription and captioning, accounts receivable management and additional BPO services to notable Fortune 1,000 clients in a variety of industries. We are proud to be listed on the Nasdaq Global Market.

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corporatejobs@peoplesupport.com
indicate position on the subject line.

1 Resume

5 International Call Centers

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When you send your application and resume to TeleDevelopment Services, Inc. (TDS), we make sure that it gets considered by at least 5 call center companies whom we are helping to screen, and recruit candidates for call center agent positions.

That is why a qualified TDS candidate's application form and resume is worth several times more compared with a resume submitted somewhere else.

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hro@teledevelopment.com

Or call our recruitment hotline: 6318230

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632.631.8230
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HRD (S) PTE., LTD.

The company is engaged into producing of computer-aided architectural and structural design including continuous research and development.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**OFFICE STAFF**

- Male/Female not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of any 3 year / 4 year / 5 year course
- Computer Literate
- Knowledge in AutoCAD is a plus

MAINTENANCE STAFF

- Electrician
- AC Technician
- Forklift Operator
- Batchling Plant Operator
- Machine Installer
- Welder
- Boiler Operator / Technician
- Material Controller
- Loader Operator
- Rigger
- Plumber
- Reverse Osmosis Operator (R/O)
- Telephone Technician

Qualifications:

- Male not more than 32 years old
- Graduate of any related vocational course / College Level
- With minimum of six (6) months related experience

POWERPLANT STAFF

- Male not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical / Electrical Engineering or Basic Seaman Course
- With or without license
- Must have a basic computer knowledge
- Willing to work long hours and night shift schedule

Experience in a day-to-day operation & maintenance of a power generator plant (checking of diesel engines, power generators and control panels) is an advantage

Interested applicants must bring bio-data / resumé with 2x2 picture, diploma, Transcript of record and SSS Employment History at:

HRD (S) PTE., LTD.

LOT 7, BLOCK 9, PHASE 1, PEZA, ROSARIO, CAVITE
Tel. No. (046) 437-1188 loc. 122
Look for Ms. Jessica L. Sore
E-mail: personnel02@hrd-s.com

A progressive & innovative real estate developer w/ projects catering to retirees, OCW's, students, investors, and urban dwellers in general is in need of:

MARKETING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

- Willing to be assigned to project sites at Sta. Mesa & Quezon City
- Flexible, can work long hours & during weekends
- Outgoing, can handle events catering both to clients & agents
- Graduate of Marketing, Mass Communications, Business or Management
- Very good communication skills, both written & oral
- With knowledge of Power Point, Excel, Word, Photoshop
- Fresh Graduates are preferred but w/ strong extra curricular background

This is an entry level position reporting directly to the Marketing Director. Interested applicants may send their resumé addressed to the Marketing Director, 3rd Floor Gold Building, #15 Annapolis St., Greenhills San Juan, M.M

Associate Computer Systems Analyst**Responsibilities**

The position designs, develops, implements, supports and maintains Oracle eBusiness Suite applications involving medium to high-level technical complexity, either through leadership of an independent project team or through participation in major systems development projects as principal member.

For more details about the position, please see
<http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp>

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Information Systems and Technology Specialist for Enterprise Resource Planning, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria**Specific criteria include**

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business Administration, Accounting, Engineering or related areas.
- at least 5 years experience in development and implementation of Oracle eBusiness Suite Applications, two years of which must be specific experience in Financial Applications (FinApps) modules; preferably with detailed technical experience as two or more of the Oracle products including Account Receivables (AR), Accounts Payable (AP), Purchasing, Assets, General Ledger (GL); and one year of which must be in team leadership for application systems development/implementation projects.
- proficiency in systems analysis and design, preparation of functional and detailed specifications design, and programming and data analysis.

- proficiency in delivery (write or execute) of SQL and PL/SQL
- good knowledge of Oracle tools including Self Service, Oracle Workflow, JDeveloper, Application Object Library (AOL), and use of Oracle APIs.
- knowledge of Java, XML and Oracle Metalink TAR process.
- good working knowledge in the system development/implementation hardware/software platforms used in multilateral organizations
- good oral and written communication skills, and ability to work well with others.
- good project management and supervisory skills.
- experience of frontline support of Oracle ERP, ideally for FinApps

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS06-111141-GIST and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by 14 July 2006.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank

www.adb.org**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS**

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- > A Christian

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- Female, 22 years old and above
- LICENSED, at least with 1 year experience
- Flexible and can relate well to others
- Can handle confidential matters

REPAIR & MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

- Male / Female, 22-30 y/o, graduate of any technical or engineering course
- Preferably with experience in die bond, wire bond, and other clean room machines
- Must possess a good interpersonal, analytical and theoretical skills

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé at the above address, or fax it at 046-4370377 • 9714130, and/or email it at r_dizon@fujimoto.com.ph



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B&M GLOBAL SERVICES MANILA

An international law firm with more than 60 offices in 38 countries and a robust Intellectual Property Law practice demands the expertise of legal professionals in its Manila-based support team. Our dynamic organization seeks to hire for the following positions to support the Global Intellectual Property Practice Group of the Firm:

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYER

We are in search of a lawyer with at least 1 year of legal practice with a firm or the equivalent work experience acquired within a corporate/commercial or regulatory/judicial/public sector environment, who has directly and effectively conducted or managed Intellectual Property Law work, with knowledge and a deep interest in various IP issues and matters, including registration, prosecution, enforcement, transfer, licensing and others.

The successful candidate will assume the post of Professional Support Lawyer (PSL) and be part of a growing professional legal support team based in Manila. The PSL will report to and work with our Global Knowledge Officer for the IP group, as well as coordinate with IP practitioners worldwide for know-how projects and knowledge management initiatives such as work product collection, multi-country surveys on IP protection, legal development reports and training support.

The ideal candidate must also possess the following:

- Excellent academic credentials from a reputable law school;
- Strong legal research and report writing skills;
- Ability to initiate and maintain appropriate work systems, attention to detail, and effective time management;
- Ability to work productively within virtual communities, functioning independently as needed, but also capable of developing good relationships with other team members, local offices and support groups;
- Outstanding oral and written English communication skills; and IT literacy.

Experience in collaborating with foreign correspondent firms and with multinational clients for IP-related matters is an advantage. We offer a competitive compensation package, with opportunity for travel and professional development.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARALEGAL

We are looking for an IP paralegal with experience and high-quality track record in handling the entire process of IP rights registration, particularly for trademarks and/or patents, acquired in a law firm or commercial setting. The successful candidate will serve as Practice Group Support Paralegal for the Global IP Practice Group and report to the Director for Global IP Projects and to the Global Knowledge Officer. They will be primarily responsible for updating and maintaining the rules that operate a centralized IP rights database and platform used by the Firm and its clients.

The ideal candidate must also possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in a four or five-year course, preferably in any of the following fields: Computer Science or related sciences, Legal Management, Business Administration or Economics;
- Very good English written and oral communication skills;
- High level of keyboard skills and IT literacy; and
- A keen eye for detail, ability to work independently and as part of a team, and ability to comply with deadlines and to manage time well.

Applicants with experience and skills in IP database entry and maintenance, use of fault logging database, classification/indexing, legal research, report writing and analysis are preferred. We offer a competitive compensation package, with opportunity for training and development.

Qualified applicants may submit their cover letters, resume, 2x2 picture and other credentials to bangsa.bm@bms.com.

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Republic of the Philippines
Career Executive Service Board
#3 Marcelino St., Holy Spirit Drive, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Career Executive Service Board is inviting interested Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) to apply for the position of the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the policies, rules, regulations, programs and projects relative to the governance of Career Executive Service or the CES.

Applicants must submit the following: (1) Application letter; (2) Personal Data Sheet; and (3) Picture (2x2): to:

Job Post: **Executive Director**
Career Executive Service Board
#3 Marcelino Street, Holy Spirit Drive
Isidora Hills Subdivision, Diliman, 1127
Quezon City
Telephone nos. 951-4981; 931-5732

Applications must be submitted not later than 10 July 2006.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO M. LACHICA**
OIC-Executive Director

ACCOUNTANT

For Immediate Hiring

Requirements:

- Passed the CPA Board Exam.
- At least 2 year(s) or working Experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Required skill(s): computer literate.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employee specializing in Finance General Accounting.
- Preferably not more than 35 years old.

Responsibilities:

- knowledgeable in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate.
 - knowledgeable in government required remittances & renewals.
 - good communication and inter-personal skills.
- The company's accountant will report directly to the president. She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions

Contact person: Ms. Belinda
Ortigas Center, Pasig City • 636-6327 to 29



BAHAGINAN

A Member of the Voluntary Service Overseas or VSO Federation, an international organization that works through volunteers, is currently looking for a

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & FUND RAISING OFFICER (Job Code: PDFRO)

The post will be responsible for generating funding support for sending Filipino VSO volunteers overseas and for the implementation of national volunteering and other innovative programmes of VSO Bahaginan. The PDFRO will also be developing long-term partnerships with institutional and individual donors.

The goals of the position include developing VSO Bahaginan's long-term fund raising operational plan, diversifying funding sources, building a donor database and achieving financial results. Candidates must have successful experience in fund raising and partnership development, and the ability to work as part of VSO's international fund raising team.

Application Closes: 30 July 2006
Interview Date: 8 August 2006
Position Starts: as soon as possible

Interested applicants should access a job pack from the VSO Bahaginan website at www.vsobahaginan.org.ph. The website includes the VSO Staff Application Form and the complete job description. CVs will not be accepted as applications. Please send accomplished form and specify the Job Code (PDFRO) to: The Director at bahaginan@vsointl.org

VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunity employer. Because of our limited resources, only shortlisted candidates will be notified

We are the leading company in our service-oriented industry. We are looking for hardworking individuals who share our commitment to quality and professionalism for the following vacancies:

RECEPTIONIST/ADMIN. ASSISTANT

We seek a personable young lady, between 24-28 years of age, with excellent spoken and written English communication skills, a college graduate, about 2 years secretarial experience and at ease in dealing with foreigners. With good/clear voice quality and diction, excellent phone skills and phone etiquette. A warm and pleasing manner and dedication to professional secretarial work are important personality requirements.

ACCOUNTANT

Applicant must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Accounting and a Certified Public Accountant, Male or Female, between 25-35 years of age with 4 years of working experience, with high level of computer literacy, personable and at ease in dealing with expatriates, excellent spoken and written English communication skills.

IT SUPPORT/MAINTENANCE

Applicant must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology, personable and at ease in dealing with expatriates, excellent spoken and written English communication skills, knowledgeable in Windows Operating System and troubleshooting, proficient in Microsoft Office products: Linux, SQL, Java

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume with photo by email to jane.biene@asiantigers-philippines.com or post to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
ASIAN TIGERS LANE MOVING & STORAGE
N4 JY & Sons Compound, Veterans Complex, 1631 Taguig



FINANCIAL TIMES
Electronic Publishing

The **FINANCIAL TIMES**, one of the world's leading sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operation and requires additional staff for its data production team. The ideal applicants must meet the attributes and formal skills below and should be able to start as soon as possible.

INFORMATION EDITORS

- Be highly skilled in Adobe Acrobat, Quark Express or other desktop publishing software packages
- Had exposure to data production or computerized newspaper operation
- Have a good working knowledge of XML
- Excellent comprehension and English writing skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays
- Able to meet tight production deadlines
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Previous experience working for a multinational company

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, July 7, 2006, to The HR & Administration Manager at the following address:

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamile Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Incomplete applications will not be processed
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Please send me the full details of your A-Z Sales Partner program and FREE money-making kit!

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Occupation _____ Birthdate _____ E-mail _____

Please attach a photocopy of any one of the following identification cards (please check)

☐ Driver's License ☐ School ID ☐ Passport ☐ Senior Citizen's ID ☐ Voter's ID ☐ Postal ID

azm100

A reputable electronics company based in Clark
Special Economic Zone has an opening for two
positions with the following qualifications:

FINANCE MANAGER

- 1) at least 5 years experience in a financial management position;
- 2) expertise in accounting (CPA preferred);
- 3) budgeting, revenue/cost/expense analysis;
- 4) cash flow management;
- 5) 30-50 years of age;
- 6) basic understanding of IT and office automation;
- 7) willing to work in Clark

In addition to his/her duties as Finance Manager, candidate may be given
additional responsibilities in the fields of human relations and purchasing.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- 1) at least 3 years experience in internal audit position
- 2) CPA preferred
- 3) 25-35 years of age
- 4) willing to work in Clark

Salary will be commensurate to experience and potential. Interested parties
may e-mail or fax their bio-data, photograph and a short letter attention to
The President to megatin@yahoo.com or 712-2581.

All applications will be treated confidentially.

URGENT

PROGRAM INFORMATION OFFICER

Qualifications: A graduate of a business course or nursing course from
a reputable school; with excellent communication skills both in oral and
written English; with extensive experience in marketing; with strong
background in networking with schools, hospitals and healthcare
organizations; Proficient technology skills using MS Office; highly
organized, result-oriented and flexible; medical representatives are
welcome to apply

NURSE EDUCATOR

Qualifications: graduate of BSN; with excellent communication skills
both in oral and written English; with good interpersonal skills; can work
under pressure; highly organized, result-oriented, committed and
flexible; with experience working in a review center, giving lectures/
review/tests and preparing applicants for the NCLEX; **MUST BE** an
NCLEX passer.

Applicants may bring or mail their resumé and transcript to:
Unit 1803 Taipei Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Previous applicants need not apply.

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Send your Application to:

Country Manager
7F Guada Building
No. 31 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Facsimile no.: 632 5332249
Email address: c/o cristine.baulos@orica.com

Assistant Computer Systems Analyst

Responsibilities

The position develops, implements, supports and maintains
extension to the Comprehensive Loan Accounting and Services
System (CLASS) involving medium technical complexity, either
through the leadership of an independent project team or through
participation in major systems development projects as a member.

For more details about the position, please see
<http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp>

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Senior Collaborative and Web
Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and
Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at
the required level;
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business
Administration, Accounting, Engineering, or related areas.
- at least 5 years experience in programming using Oracle
platform, of which 2-3 years are on applications related to
accounting, banking and/or finance.
- experience in systems analysis and design, and preparation of
functional and detailed specifications design; proficiency in
programming and testing.
- proficiency in programming using standard SQL and PL/SQL.
- familiarity with data warehousing concept and reporting tools
such as Oracle Discoverer or COGNOS Report Net.

- good knowledge of Oracle tools including JDeveloper,
Application Object Library (AOL), and use of Oracle APIs
- knowledge of Visual LANS development platform will be a
plus.
- good working knowledge in the system development/
implementation hardware/software platforms used in a
multilateral institution.
- good oral and written communication skills, and ability to work
well with others.
- a good working knowledge of software tools such as Lotus
Notes and MS Office suite.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty.
Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's
multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's
Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally
from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term
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package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB
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in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting Ref. No. EXT-AS86-130(H)-OIST and job
title on subject line and attaching application form available on
www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address:
CS-jobs@adb.org by 14 July 2006

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted
candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference
number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be
considered.

Asian Development Bank



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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CHIEF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Graduate of B.S. Medical Technology, preferably with
Masters/advanced degree
- At least 5 years experience as CMT in a tertiary laboratory
set-up
- Strong supervisory/managerial skills; strong service-orientation
- Preferably with experience in ISO Accreditation

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS

- Registered Medical Technologist
- At least 1-2 years experience as RMT in a tertiary
laboratory set-up (Experience with PCR is an advantage)
- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision

CLIENT SERVICE PERSONNEL

- Graduate of B.S. Medical Technology,
- Non-Registered Med. Tech. may apply
- Excellent communication skills (English/Philippine)
- Service oriented and able to work independently
- Must be computer literate

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- 1-2 years experience in General Accounting
- Knowledge in QuickBooks Accounting system preferred
- Female, 22-28 years old

ABC American Bio-Clinical
Laboratories, International
Suite LG-5 Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel Nos.: 850-6288, 850-6289; Fax: 850-6287.
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ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
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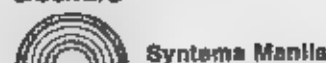
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MANAGER, SALES AND TECHNICAL

Qualifications

- Male, not more than 35 years of age
- Degree in Business Admin. Management, Engineering or related Field
- Able and experienced to conceptualized, develop and implement
effective marketing plans and strategies
- Willing excellent communication and team working skills
- Experience in the paint and wood finishing industry preferred
- Driving skills an advantage

SALES/TECHNICIAN

Qualifications:

- Male, not more than 35 years of age
- Graduate of a Technical Course preferred
- Experience in the paint and wood finishing industry preferred
- Highly flexible and adaptable to different working environments
- Driving skills an advantage

We offer higher than industry rate compensation package to the successful
candidate. For interested applicants, please send your resume with 2x2 photos
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No. 12, VCGT Realty Compound, Amang Rodriguez Ave.,
Manggahan, Pasig City 1611
Attention: The Recruitment Manager
E-Mail: admin@syntema-manila.com

Text us your feedback: monitor.paw@mcgill.ca. Send to 2267 (Globe) or 283 (Sun)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To facilitate the implementation of the Learning and Dissemination of Lessons Component of the Japan Social Development Fund Social Inclusion Project (JSDP-SIP), the National Project Management Office (NPMD) shall engage the services of an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Advocacy Specialist.

Scope of Work/Responsibilities and Tasks:

1. Serve as lead implementer of Component D (Learning and Dissemination of Lessons) of the Social Inclusion Project.
2. Develop and implement the Project IEC and Advocacy Plan, congruent and complementary to the KALAH-CIDSS and DSWD Social Marketing Plan.
3. Conduct mainstreaming coordination and advocacy activities with relevant national agencies, local government units, civil society organizations and project communities.
4. In coordination with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, provide technical assistance in the implementation of the following activities:
 - a. Identification, packaging and dissemination of key project lessons and best practices based on project activities and reports;
 - b. Development of a Process Documentation mechanism for key Project processes (Proposal Implementation, Capacity-building, Institutionalization and Mainstreaming, etc.), including the review and consolidation of Process Documentation outputs;
 - c. Conduct of regular reflection sessions with learning networks (national level), and quarterly regional learning workshops; and
 - d. Conduct of annual learning conference with stakeholders to synthesize findings and summarize key lessons.
5. In coordination with the Community Development (CD) Specialist, provide technical assistance in the implementation of the following activities:
 - a. Development and implementation of the Project Institutionalization and Mainstreaming Plan, congruent to the KALAH-CIDSS Institutionalization Plan;
 - b. Strengthening of BAAE Teams as policy advocacy structures for community participation;
 - c. Institutionalization of Project innovations and other participation policies in target LGUs;
 - d. Packaging, production and dissemination of innovative training modules;
 - e. Provision of technical assistance in the conduct of trainings related to IEC and Advocacy for implementers and project communities.
6. Develop IEC materials and undertake IEC activities as required by the Project.
7. Maintain a database of Project lessons, process documentation and photo documentation.
8. Conceptualize, develop and update the SIP webpage in the KALAH-CIDSS website.

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit Expressions of Interest:

1. Bachelor's degree in Development Communication, Mass Communication or Social Sciences, preferably with Master's Degree in a related field;
2. At least five (5) years of progressive experience in Information, Education and Communication (IEC) or Social Marketing;
3. Proficiency in various desktop publishing, graphic design and web applications such as Adobe PageMaker, Photoshop and InDesign;
4. Excellent writing, editing and speaking skills in English and Filipino;
5. Professional exposure to development-oriented projects of international funding institutions, government agencies or non-government organizations.

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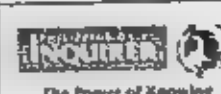
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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES



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* This strip is a repeat of last week's issue because the writer/artists were unable to meet the deadline

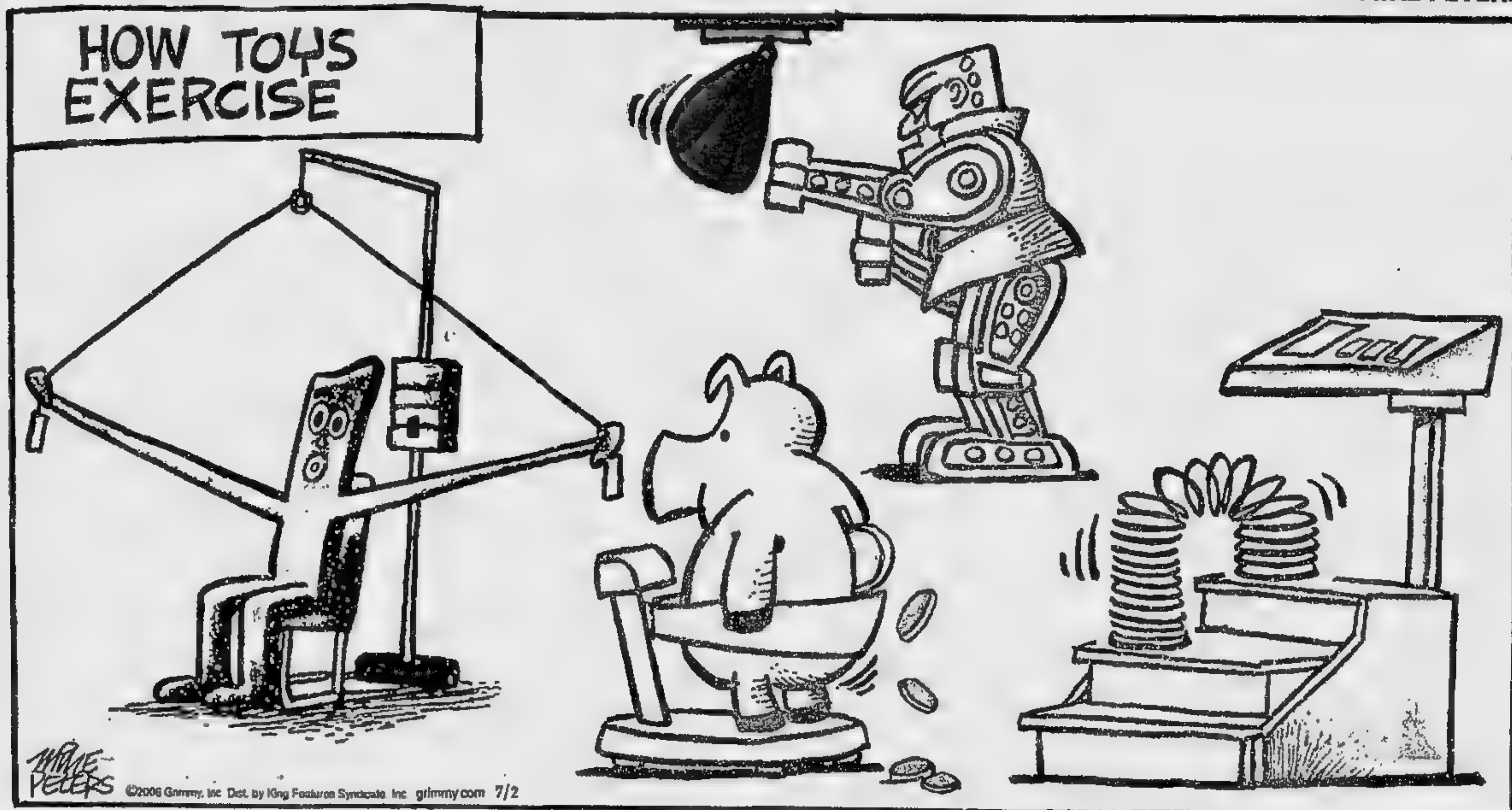
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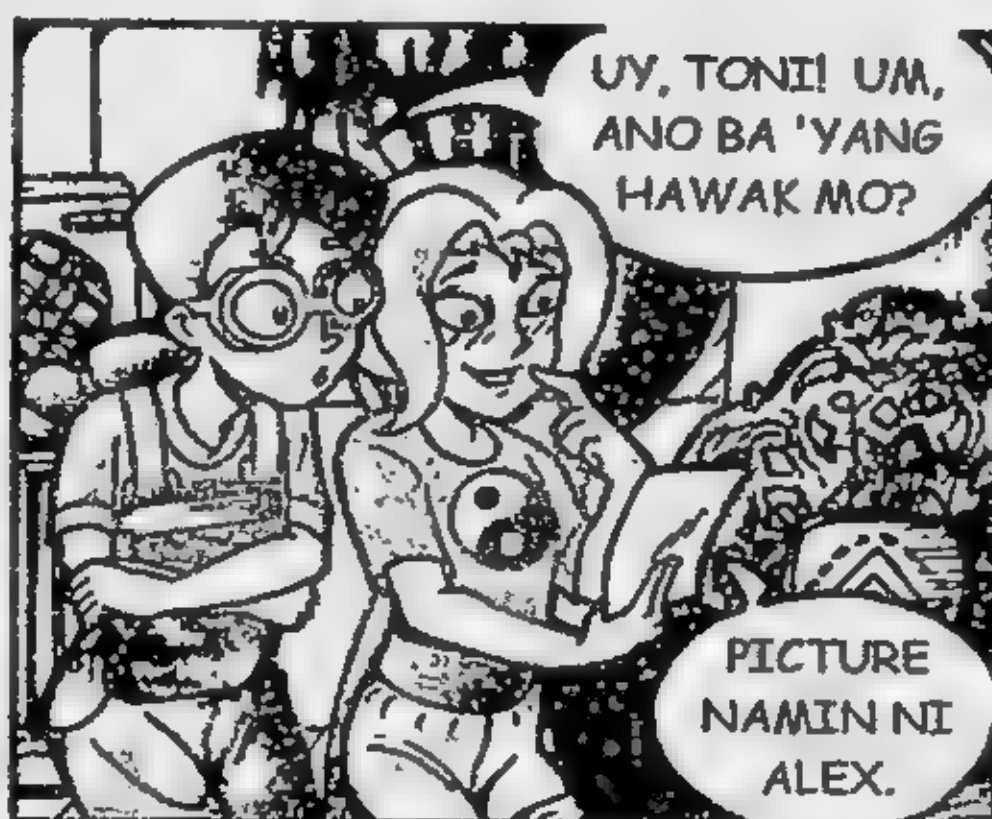
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BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA



Blog Caliguia, creator of INDAY WANDA, and Jason Confesor won the Grand Prize in Citem's 4th short animation competition and in the 11th Graphic Expo for their work on 'Doodle of Doom.' Congratulations!

MOOMOO HUNTERS

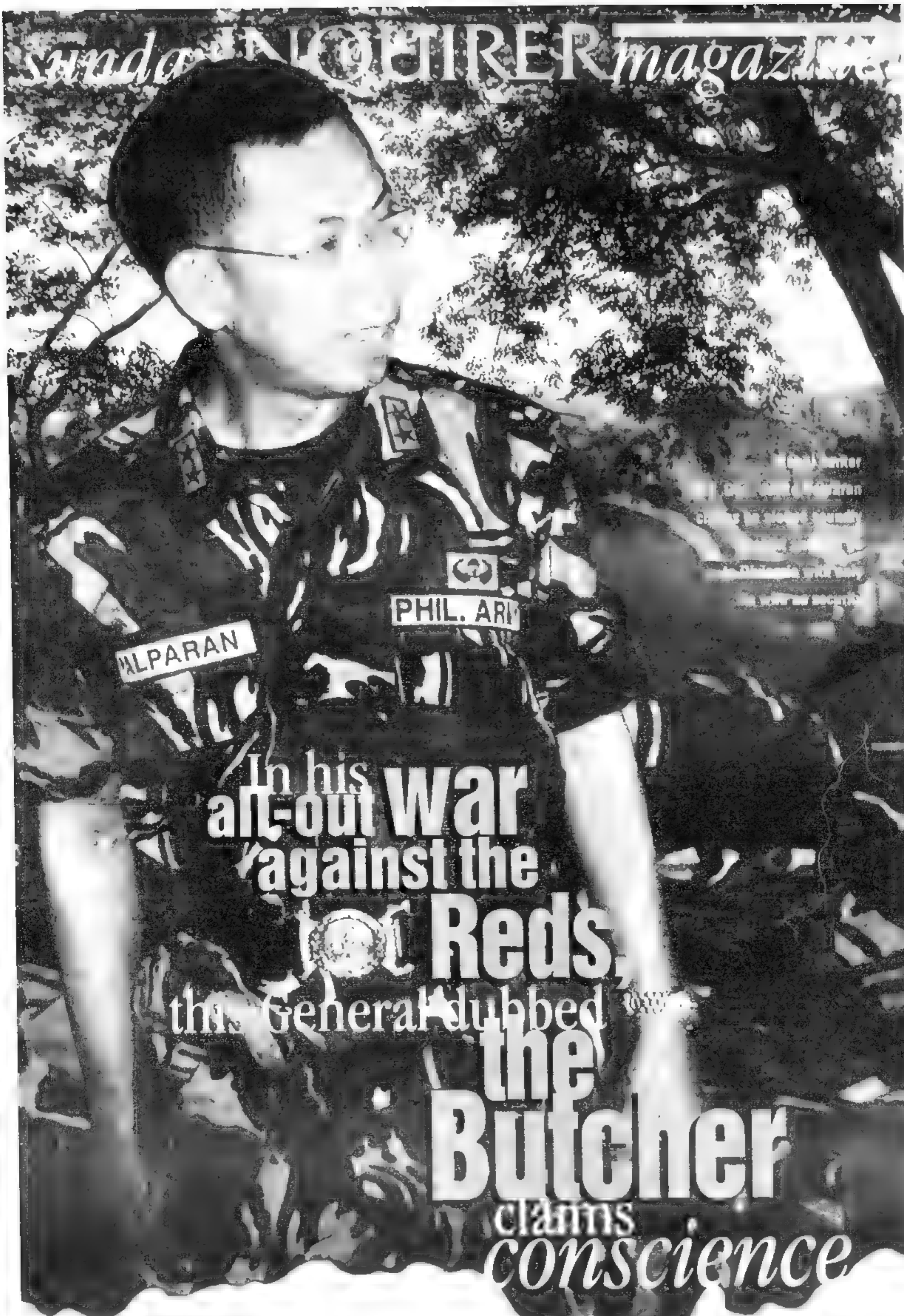
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In his all-out war against the Reds, this General dubbed the Butcher claims conscience

by Te B. Zamora
photograph by Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

is the least of his concerns

His head is the first thing one notices about Major Gen. Jovito Palparan. It's small and round like a *sineguelas* fruit, with ears jutting out like teacup handles. With his crewcut and cheery mien, Palparan looks more like a scout master herding a group of playful youngsters on their first bivouac.

Instead, on this sweltering May afternoon in Bgy. Sampaloc, San Rafael, Bulacan, the commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division, is

speaking in this "peace rally" organized by the military. Surveying the crowd, Palparan starts his speech soberly: "*Sabi nila, mamatay-tao ako* (people say I'm a killer)." Breaking slowly into a grin, he continues: "*Hindi naman lahat aking pinapatay* (But I don't kill everyone)." The menfolk break into nervous laughter,

the women crane their necks for a better view of the speaker. Palparan pauses to savor the moment. "What will we get if we make you suffer?" he continues, teasing the crowd in Filipino. "I don't want to go through life hated by so many people. As soldiers, we are here to help because that is our duty, that is our happiness."

To page 2



Maj. Gen. ...from page 1

Earlier in the day, some 500 barangay officials as well as alleged members and sympathizers of the communist New People's Army (NPA) members had a seminar on how to defend their communities from NPA intrusion. One after the other, the barangay captains mounted the stage and unfurled an orange cartolina scribbled with answers to several questions posed by the military. "What is the situation in your barangay before the soldiers came? Were there communists present? Why/how did they get there? What did you do to get rid of the communists? What will you do to keep them away?" the questions read.

One barangay captain who had difficulty explaining the situation in his NPA-infested village got a sharp reprimand from the moderator, a military-looking man wearing a vest and who spoke crunchy Filipino. "Don't call them people. Call them NPA, criminals, terrorists," the moderator said gruffly. "What to do if they refuse to leave?" he prompted, before answering his own question. "Kill them then..." he said, voice booming across the open gymnasium of the Carlos Gonzales High School.

"Perhaps if we have weapons..." the barangay captain suggested tentatively, twisting his lean body towards the moderator.

"Wala ba kayong mga itak (But don't you have machetes?)", the moderator replied. "Dead men cannot complain anymore. Remember what General Palparan said last night?" The men nodded in approval.

Never has killing and death been spoken of so blithely than on this afternoon of counter-insurgency talk. "Kung hindi aakyat sa stage, tigok! (Come up the stage, or you're dead)," the emcee joked as he called on an ex-NPA member to denounce his former comrades. The crowd tittered nervously, and with good reason. Palparan has vowed to cleanse Bulacan—and Central Luzon, for that matter—of NPAs before his 56th birthday on September 11, a birthdate he shares with deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos. "They surrender, they evacuate, they disappear, they die, I don't care what happens to them. What's important is that they are no longer here," Palparan declares.

Shameless mastermind

Though delivered light-heartedly, Palparan's statement should not be taken lightly.

Of the more than 600 extrajudicial killings of militants, peasants, fisherfolk, students and human rights advocates reported since 2001, almost 500 have been blamed by militants on Palparan, whom they have tagged "the butcher of Mindoro and Eastern Visayas," where he was assigned from 2001 to 2005.

Militant groups have described the general as shameless and "thick-faced" for masterminding the deaths of hapless farmers and fisherfolk, the same people, they say, who toil hard so that the likes of Palparan, President Arroyo and the rest of the country, can have food on their table.

"Palparan is not only arrogant, he is also psychotic," says Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) Secretary General Danilo Ramos.

But Palparan merely scoffs at the accusations. "(The killings are) being attributed to me, but I did not kill them. I just inspired (the triggermen)," he chuckles. "We are not admitting responsibility here, what I'm saying is that these are necessary incidents."

In the week following President Arroyo's declaration of total war against communist insurgents, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has said as much, dismissing the loss of innocent lives as "collateral damage."

Palparan does him one better. "There are no innocent victims," he says. "These people are suspected of having done wrong in the community." He then gave a litany of how the NPAs merited so-called revolutionary justice on villagers suspected of playing footsie with the military.

"The victims (of NPA justice) have families, they have relatives. If the threat comes to them to a point when they have to take action, then maybe they should. They are only defending themselves," he adds.

Palparan similarly shrugs off charges of human rights abuses leveled against him. "Wala akong hang-up dyan. (I have no hang-ups about that). We are fighting a movement that is violent. More violence will come to us if we just allow them to do what they want," he says.

Simple choice

He rues as well the lack of troops fielded against the enemy, and how some soldiers lack motivation in pursuing the target. "If I were the chief of staff, I'd take control over resources. Those who don't work will get relieved, as simple as that. What's important is for them to do the job. Do everything you can to clear the area. It's all up to you."

A fellow officer who has worked with Palparan says the

An officer's reward. Receiving a medal from the President and the top brass



general is actually giving people a choice. "The choice is simple: who would these people rather have as foes: the military or the NPA?"

Palparan may have been described by his detractors as a soldier of death, but he is no phenomenon in the Philippine countryside where poverty rules and the wealthy govern. The disparity between the impoverished majority and the wealthy few has provided a natural fertile ground for insurgency in Central Luzon where Col. Napoleon Valeriano and the "skull squadrons" hunted the Huks in the '50s.

The '70s and the '80s produced other notorious personalities, among them Col. Carlos Lademora with the Lost Command, who sowed terror in Samar and later in Mindanao, and Lt. Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, the self-styled rebel hunter who, in the North, had been known to torture his prey.

Killing machine

Palparan joined the Armed Forces just as the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) launched its secessionist war in Mindanao in 1974. Unlike the Huks who were into guerilla hit-and-run tactics, the MNLF favored conventional warfare, firing rockets at the government troops in battles that often lasted from dusk till dawn. Palparan was shipped off to Jolo, the heartland of the Moro secessionist movement. He was with the 24th Infantry Battalion, which has been described by a retired Army general as a unit geared for "shock action" against the MNLF. "That unit was a virtual killing machine: we had to caution them to slow down," the retired official said.

Palparan describes it as "a kill-or-be-killed situation." He said the fighting was so fierce that he lost 40 men during a month-long battle in 1979. The 500-strong battalion would lose over 200 troops in the manhunt for Usman Sali, the leader of the group that massacred Brig. Gen. Teodoro Bautista and 34 soldiers and men on October 10, 1977. "So I became company commander and operations officer at the same time because no other officer would report to the unit," Palparan recalls.

The battalion commander then was Col. Jose Dado, while the brigade commander was Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Canieso, a tough-talking soldier who became a legend in Mindanao as "kan-yonieso," mainly because his preferred weapon of engagement was the cannon. According to lore, Canieso never balked at raining cannons upon enemy positions. He was reportedly as eager to fire cannons at troops who hesitated to attack the enemy, making sure that the cannons landed on the soldiers' asses, thereby jolting them to move forward.

Still, in any armed conflict, it is the civilians who suffer the most, acknowledges Palparan during the interview in Bulacan. Women and children become natural victims "because they don't know where to run, how to hide," he says. The worse part was that in Sulu, battle-weary soldiers saw the Tausug children as "future enemies, so the thinking was to finish them off while they were still young," Palparan reveals.

Convincing victory

But it was a "convincing victory" that the 24th IB achieved in Patikul some 26 years ago, the general crows. "We finished off the MNLF—at least in Patikul—until Butz Aquino revived it by bringing Nur Misuari back in 1986."

The 24th IB would be moved to Central Luzon in the early '80s to fight the NPAs. Palparan would also join the unit, and by 1989, would assume the post as battalion commander, which he held until 1991. His list of human rights violations reportedly started about this time, with him scoring at least seven incidents of salvagings, five incidents of harassment, five incidents of illegal arrest and detention, two incidents of grenade bombing, and one incident each of massacre and aerial assault, according to the militants' report on Palparan's human rights record.

The controversial officer also claims "convincing victory" in Naujan, Victoria and Baco, all in Mindoro Oriental, which were among his areas of operation as chief of the 204th Brigade from 2001 to 2003.

Another "convincing victory" was in Calbiga, Samar, which he also covered as chief of the 8th Infantry Division from February to June last year. But it's a victory daubed with blood, according to militants, who tally nearly 300 incidents of extra judicial killings. Such a record has earned Palparan the "butcher" tag from several people's organizations.

Alleged abuses

Despite the reported trail of death and disappearances that follow in his wake, Palparan remains in the good graces of the Arroyo administration. In September 2005, he was assigned to head the 7th ID which has jurisdiction over Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Bataan, Pangasinan, Aurora and Bulacan.

By January this year, Bulacan Gov. Josefina dela Cruz started receiving reports about Palparan's alleged human rights abuses.

"I have no quarrel with General Palparan on counter-insurgency, but I cannot quite agree with his methods," says Dela Cruz. She was particularly miffed when Palparan's men began house-to-house searches without even informing the mayor, much less the local police. "Sabi ba naman, walang mayor-mayor or governor-governor sa amin (He said he doesn't give a damn about mayors

or governors)," Dela Cruz says, quoting the report from a local official.

Since then, Dela Cruz has been crossing swords with the controversial general in public. And Palparan has fought back by telling the media that the governor was an NPA supporter. Dela Cruz says Palparan's move was predictable. In fact, she notes, the general has also linked Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio to the rebel movement after the legislator held a dialog with the military following the February 1 massacre of five farm workers in San Ildefonso town. (Palparan and Governor Dela Cruz met last week and agreed to "open lines" on issues involving the conduct and operations of soldiers in Bulacan amid the government's heightened anti-insurgency campaign.—Ed.)

Ignored resolution

Separate fact-finders conducted by the militant Karapatan and the provincial board pointed to the 24th IB as the culprits. In March, the provincial board passed a resolution urging Palparan to pull out Sgt. Riza Hilario, a member of the 24th IB, from San Ildefonso, to allow scared witnesses to come out and testify. Palparan had apparently ignored the resolution because Hilario is still maintaining his base in Barangay Pinaod, site of the massacre.

Through all these controversies, Palparan would only shrug his shoulders. "Hindi pwedeng atrasan dito, tuloy tuloy na ito (There's no going back now; we have to keep going)," he says. In fact, he adds, the military is already behind schedule. "If only I could assign one soldier to guard every house..." he says wistfully.

If he can't clear Central Luzon of insurgents by September, Palparan says he is hoping that his successors "would do the job so at least I can retire in peace," he says. He definitely doesn't want to end up like Aguinaldo, who was killed by the NPA hit squad in June 2001.

Indeed, Palparan has gone a long way from his humble beginnings in Cagayan de Oro City, where he was born on Sept. 11, 1950. The boy spent his childhood in his father's hometown in Malitog, Southern Leyte, his high school years back in CDO, and college at the University of the East in Manila where he earned his BS in Business Administration in 1973. He pursued further studies even while in the military, tucking an MA in Management from the Philippine Christian University and an MA in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines.

Low-key life

Through all his high profile war against the NPA, Palparan leads a low-key private life. Details about his family are scanty. "If they see me worried, then they would also worry. They would be reacting to me," he says. "But I can still go to Divisoria with my wife. She is bigger than me, so she's my security," he laughs.

He continues: "If I pray every morning for God to protect me, He might think I have become nervous. If you are doing right, God will protect you, so I do my job. You do not ask God for things that you can do; you only ask God for things that you cannot do yourself. I'm a practical person that way. I don't want to give the Lord too much burden." Besides, Palparan avers, he has no problem sleeping at night. There are no skeletons walking in his dreams, he says. "That's being paranoid; time to be confined at Ward 24 and 1/2," he laughs out loud. "It could also be conscience. But I don't have that," he shrugs.

Kambal-Tuko

Kahit nakauwi na ang ama sa bahay,
hindi siya nahiyang mahuling naghabulan.

Sa pagpalobo ng mga pisngi, mukha pa silang
naghalayngkikan. Nakapaghubad na ng sapatos ang ama,

patuloy lamang sila sa pagtakbo: sa hagdan,
sa kuwarto—pati ang pader ay ginawa nang sahig.

Lilingon ang ama, mapapaling sa dalawang lupilo
sa sala—muntik nang magpaalam ang ilang ploreira!

Kasabayan magpapang-abot ang magstriking binatilyo?

Itinaas ng ama ang kanang kamay, sabay sumipol,
Nalunod lamang ang tinis nito sa kanilang cawanah.

Isinampey ng ama sa balikang pangw sa damit,
at tinawag ang kanilang pangalan.

Subalit walang tumigil, o kumaway pabalik,
ni tumugon sa tunog ng kanilang pangalan—

patuloy lamang sila sa kanilang kasyahan;
tita walang kapaguran.

Wala nang magagawa pa ang isang ama.
Bumalik na lamang siya sa sofa at humilita.

Jasper Po

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by Hanna Lacsamana

Despite a dangerous bone condition, Gloria Leal decided that she would do her part to provide enlightened tutorial services

Unlike the more common form of scoliosis, Leal's spine curves into an inverted C shape which makes the deformity more severe as it affects all the internal organs. Her condition was considered a special case by visiting Asian surgeons and experts at the National Orthopedic Hospital who operated on her in 1984. She was one of 25 grantees of the free medical operation which at that time could have cost her P200,000, hardly affordable for one who comes from an average-income family.

Sorry plight

Before the operation, her condition caused her a lot of pain and some paralysis. She had to wear a brace then to aid her in walking. Prayers kept her going and stilled her fear. And nothing, even comments about her appearance, could stop her from pursuing what she wanted to do. "I don't mind (the remarks). Even if I'm like this, I can do things better than some normal people do," Leal says. She was the last to go home among the grantees but was on her feet and back to work at a refugee camp after less than 100 days, when in fact her case required at least half a year to heal.

It was during her hospital stay that she saw the sorry plight of indigent patients in the charity ward. "I learned then that you have to enjoy the simple joys of life. Make the best of what you have because life is so

short. So what ever you can do, do it now," Leal said.

Leal never dreamt of becoming a teacher. She earned a degree in Mass Communication at St Louis University. A year after she graduated and before she could apply what she had learned in college, came the opportunity to teach English as a Second Language at a refugee camp in Morong, Bataan. This was in the early 1980s when she was hired by the United Nations to teach refugees, both adults and children, from the then war-torn countries of Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia, who had sought refuge in Morong.

Leal considers those 13 years as the most fruitful, meaningful and memo-


table

experience she'd ever had in teaching. "While at the camp, my heart for the service grew. I consider myself lucky because I saw how it was living in a war-torn country." She nurtured the idea of continuing teaching after she left Morong, this time helping children in Baguio City to cope with their lessons in schools. She put up the STEP Tutorial and Learning Center 'where a child is always a step ahead'.

A determined spirit

With the help of the other teachers who returned to Baguio after the camp, Leal in 1993 put up the tutorial center whose first clients were two Gabrinuans who wanted to learn the Ilocano dialect for their mission work. After nu-

merous changes of location, STEP Learning and Review Center finally is now located at PortaVaga in the center of the city's central business district. Four years after the tutorial center was put up, STEP Learning Academy rose in Campo Sioco which offers pre-school, elementary and high school programs.

As a differently-abled woman, Leal chose to be of service and an asset rather than a liability to the state or her family. Despite an environment that still behittles her at times for her appearance, Leal serves as an inspiration to others like her for showing that opportunities are not lost on a determined spirit. 

Women's Feature Service

INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

JUNE 11, 2004

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Kicker

by Agnes Prieto
photographs by August de la Cruz

Talks have it that the Jesuits are keeping a little black book that contains the rituals and spells of the native shamans banished by the friars when they Christianized the islands. Could Fr. Ted Gonzales, SJ, be the keeper of this book?



Fr. Ted combines old beliefs and modern conventions in his search for new heroes

There's an amulet in the Filipino blood that leads to greatness

Like Harry Potter has his sorcerer's stone, Father Ted has his *agimat*, amulets that transform situations, vanquish evil and bring on the good. Harry Potter though is a storybook character, while Fr. Teodoro "Ted" Gonzales is a Jesuit, as real as the Ateneo.

There is something very intense about Gonzales the SJ, but he is no brooding artist. Priest and pastoral counselor, he is the Program Director at the Center for Family Ministries (Cefam) at the Ateneo, and is a caregiver for the soul. In these congruent roles, he counsels, teaches and facilitates group discussions for personal growth as well as family and community wellness.

Fr. Ted recalls getting attracted to the priesthood early in his childhood, when he used to attend dawn masses with his parents in a small chapel called Apo in Pampanga. His father was a *cursillista* while his mother had a devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Compassion and conservation

Growing up with eight other siblings, the young Ted helped out his mother—who sold fruits and vegetables in the market—by hawking ice candy, sweet tamarind and ginger himself. The early deprivations would teach him compassion and the conservation of resources.

"Our parents sent us to good schools and for this I am grateful," he says. From the provincial high school, he entered the Jesuit-run San Jose Seminary in 1974. He later pursued his master's at the Loyola School of Theology at the Ateneo, and his doctorate in Pastoral Counseling at the Loyola School in Maryland.

"The path to priesthood was not easy," says Fr. Ted. "I had to learn to face the demands of learning and the path of integrity. I had to learn to face doubts and strong emotions of love. I am a very intense and passionate person. My love had to be purified to fit the kind of life I am asked to live. To love with discipline and compassion is a great challenge."

An avid reader, Fr. Ted grabbed anything in print he could hold of: "from books on interior design, to stories on well known personages in finance, business, management and history, to citations in various awards, to 100 Filipino Women, Famous Chinoys, Adarna books for children, and Inquirer articles."

All these led him to conclude that "Contrary to the notion that we are a damaged culture, we are a culture in search of its soul, identity and spirituality. We have experienced much abuse—which continues on in politics and government—but instead of learning from our past, we repeat its dysfunction. The victims might become the tyrants of tomorrow."

What we need, says Fr. Ted, is an *agimat*, a talisman, an amulet to lead us out of that cycle.

Talks of amulets provoke images of *babaylans* and shamans of yore, well respected figures banished by the friars when they Christianized the islands. There are talks among Filipino occultists that the friars also took away a black book that contained the old rituals and spells of these revered priests and priestesses. That book is rumored to be in the possession of the Jesuits. But what Fr. Ted is espousing is something more prosaic.

Best examples

The *agimat* he refers to is "the value systems which carry our strength as a people and as a country. Instead of focusing on weaknesses and divisiveness, why not focus on the best examples of Filipino strength and solidarity—the Apos, or elders?" the priest suggests.

"We call on Apos from different fields to share their success stories with our young leaders. In this way, they transmit the power or the *agimat* on to the next generation, inspiring them and affirming their good values," adds Fr. Ted.

The sharing, he says, can be done in a weekend workshop called "Agimat ni Apo," which brings together a multi-sectoral audience and the Apo concept into the mainstream.

The workshop, says Fr. Ted, "takes its participants back to when we knew we were a people of great value, a time when we were proud to be Filipino. The *agimat* is the Filipino symbol for power. It is an archetype, a search for pride and esteem through our local culture."

He continues: "The climax of our legends is when the hero wields his *agimat* and vanquishes the enemy, and though we hardly hear those stories anymore, we have new heroes, we have new myths and legends. We only have to listen to stories of how Jose Rizal, Apoli-

nario Mabini, Jovito Salonga, Ninoy Aquino, Miguel Malvar, Chino Roces, Cecilia Munoz Palma, Haydee Yorac, Randolph David and so many nameless others overcame obstacles and lived their values. These stories are the magical tools we all have access to so that we may transform our lives."

Simplicity and servanthood

The workshop consists of five parts—the first focuses on confidence in times of crisis and draws out the major challenges and stresses undergone. In storytelling, these would be symbolized by the *kapre*, the *tikbalang* and the *multo*—emphasis is given on what builds confidence. The second part is reflection and honest assessment—"how we have lost our sense of giftedness," a look at our strengths and weaknesses. Responsibility, stewardship, simplicity and servanthood are the values focused on in the third part. "We have to stop passing blame. People live in shame," notes Fr. Ted.

Idea, inspiration and imagination make up the fourth module—"Action without vision is purposeless, we have to be able to integrate all that is happening in our lives and align our imagination to the big why. Integrating all these is the fifth module which focuses on solidarity or *bayanhan*. Our dreams will come true because we work with others to realize a common vision."

Says Sr. Soria Aileen Tabada, Provincial Superior of the Holy Family Sisters and a recent workshop participant: "In the weekend get together, the participants are drawn towards an appreciation of our own gems, and the gems of others make us realize that the God who created us is indeed good and is shown in each of us. The problem starts when we are not able to get hold of our gems as a people."

Agrees Choncho Sanchez, another participant and former philosophy pro-

fessor at St. Scholastica's College: "What Agimat ni Apo points to is not an amulet of magic, or an *anting-anting* of a particular obscure cult, but a living opportunity to be better and not bitter. One is given the clear choice to take the higher road to self-acceptance, confident that one is not alone in the lonely moments of life. Here is where faith, hope and love intermingle in one's heart. The result is that a certain defining moment of inner peace is reached by one whose life has been marred by chaos and confusion. A certain calmness hovers and covers one's heart. At this juncture, self-discovery starts. Crisis becomes catharsis!"

Adds Fr. Ted "We have overlooked the fact that greatness runs through our veins. My favorite song is 'Noypi' (by Bambo), particularly the lines that go, 'may *agimat* ang dugo ko (there's an amulet in my blood).' We have forgotten this. We have been sidetracked by our own gloomy point of view of ourselves, perhaps inherited from the colonizers. We also have to see where we excel, where we do things well. Our mentors lead the way reminding us of our *agimat* to greatness."

A culture of heroes

He continues: "I wish to support the idea of building a culture of heroes, through the search for common patterns or best practices of the people we admire. Fr. Horacio de la Costa, another Jesuit, said that Filipinos have two jewels: Faith and Music. I guess faith and music drive our spirit to dream and to imagine what we can become."

There is a need for a strong body of literature to support this, Fr. Ted admits. It is important to build a base of affirmative and inspiring stories that can somehow be disseminated to a mass audience, he explains, and suggests mobilizing story tellers and encouraging in young Filipinos a love of reading.

"Basa" is a library outreach project, a first baby step to integrate collected stories of heroes in a book called simply, "Agimat." Fr. Ted is optimistic. "Through these and other stories, we hope to begin to sow seeds into a new stream of consciousness."

The base for all these change is the family, he adds, through such programs that Cefam has started: "San Jose," with its focus on Filipino malehood, "Life's Directions" which is offered for young adults on the brink of professional and personal maturity, and "On Fire," a workshop on sexuality.

"It is families that will eventually shape culture," says Fr. Ted. Discipline, both personal and group is important, as is the shift of consciousness through stories and imagination, which is a prime factor in building a nation."

"Hindi malas ang Pinoy, hindi pa lang siya nagkakamalay (Filipino aren't cursed; they just lack consciousness as yet)," he concludes.

For more information on Agimat workshop schedules, call Cefam at 02-426-4289 and look for Fr. Ted

The day three angels descended on Guinsaugon

THE DAY after a catastrophic mudslide buried the town of St. Bernard in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte, Angela "Milette" S. Averia was having her nails and hair done in a parlor. "I had just come from a 10-day sales meet in Kuala Lumpur and I needed to de-stress," recalls this Country Sales Manager for General Electric (GE) Healthcare Technologies.

Her mobile phone rang. She was on call to her staff 24/7 so that was not surprising, even on a Saturday when the office was closed. Daisy Cruz from IT was calling, reporting that a woman had called their Pasong Tamo office and had requested a return call. The caller had mentioned how badly they needed an X-ray machine for Leyte, Cruz said.

Averia brightened. "I was very excited. I thought I could make a sale." The market had not exactly been jumping the past months and this might reverse that trend.

Averia soon found out that she wouldn't meet her sales quota just yet. Still, she managed to make what could be the biggest sale of her life. Working with couple architect Manny Miñana and freelance photographer Denise Weldon, Averia managed to sell a wonderful and timeless idea to her boss in Singapore. She had pitched: "If GE could extend a hand to the tsunami victims in Indonesia, why not a similar gesture to the Philippines? Guinsaugon was our version of the tsunami after all."

Delighted surprise

It was an exceptional case for this company that traces its beginnings to Thomas Alva Edison, who established the Edison Electric Light Company in 1878. "To my knowledge, in my 12 years with GE Philippines, no such request has been made before," says Averia.

But to the delighted surprise of Weldon, who had been angling for the loan of a second hand x-ray unit, GE donated a brand new machine to the Anahawan District Hospital, the closest medical facility to St. Bernard. The generous donation turned the tragedy around for the three people behind this munificence.

For Miñana, giving something back to Guinsaugon was a way to reclaim his childhood memories. His great grandfather was from Anahawan, and he recalled passing by St. Bernard on his way to his regular summer haunt where his father, Jose Miñana would be elected mayor in 2001.

"I remember it as a quiet and sleepy town, with lush vegetation and a lovely scenery. But it was quite impoverished and people survived on copra, fishing, abaca and agriculture," he says of the town 30 minutes' drive away from Anahawan.

When continuous heavy rains caused a nearby mountain to collapse and bury St. Bernard under 30 meters of mud on Friday, Feb 17, Miñana knew he had no choice but to help out.

The 44-year-old father of two young children immediately texted and scrolled an urgent appeal for help to his friends that same day. Saturday morning, the first check for P10,000 came. Then the donations started pouring in: blankets, beddings, clothes, cash. "It's true," says an



DENISE WELDON

amazed Miñana. "A single drop of water can become an ocean." Their garage started overflowing and still the donations kept coming.

Full outpouring

"The outpouring was so full and genuine, it was like people were just waiting to be asked," shares Weldon. "The donations could fill a huge 6 x 6 truck," she recalls. The Miñanas decided to turn over the first batch of relief goods to the Red Cross. A trucking company took care of the second wave of donations and drove it all the way to Anahawan. The third wave was shipped over by a car company.

It was time to visit the place, Miñana thought. "My father is 73 years old and walks with a crutch. And yet he traveled back to Guinsaugon the following day from Cebu despite the rough roads and the lack of electricity. If he could do it, why couldn't I?"

As he walked the hospital grounds helping distribute the relief goods, Miñana realized that a lot more needed to be done. "They gave me a wish list of provisions and items they needed badly, and topping that list was an x-ray machine for the Anahawan District Hospital."

The hospital was built in the early '50s through the efforts of Congressman Nicanor Yniguez, the father of

Guinsaugon brought them together: Averia (left) and Miñana couple, Denise and Manny

Southern Leyte's present governor Rosette Larias. It serves the needs of some 100,000 people from the six surrounding municipalities including St. Bernard, and boasts of a 26-year-old x-ray machine that came from the proceeds of Japanese war reparations.

"So many survivors suffered from broken bones that the machine finally broke down after so much use," says Miñana. The mayor had managed to borrow another unit from Tacloban, but it was clear that the hospital needed its own machine.

It was then that Weldon decided to make a blind call for a donation. "I didn't know who to call," says this American photographer, "but there's something that can be said about advertising. The name and logo of GE was top of mind, so I called information to get the number. It was the first company I called."

But it was a Saturday, there was no office. Still, Weldon managed to reach a security guard who kept insisting that she call back the following Monday. Undaunted, Weldon pleaded with him to connect her to anybody who was in the office that day. It turned out to be Daisy Cruz, working overtime at the IT section. It was this IT staffer who got Weldon in touch with Averia.

Green light

"I didn't know who Denise Weldon was, but she sounded sincere and earnest," recalls Averia. "I answered her call with the thought of making my first sale for the year. She inquired about the price of a brand new mobile X-ray unit, but found it way too high for their budget."

She continues: "As we were talking, I realized the magnitude of the tragedy. I wanted to help. Selling took a back seat and I remembered an old X-ray unit in the warehouse."

Averia then texted colleagues in the Philippines and Singapore about the possibility of loaning the old unit. She got the green light, but in the end, the GE Healthcare Management decided to donate a brand new mobile X-ray unit. "It's for a good cause," declared Averia's Singapore boss, Arun Sharma, the general manager of GEHC Southeast Asia.

Not content with facilitating the donation, Averia also tapped friends in the industry for the additional items needed to run the machine: Antonio C. Tan, Jr., country manager for Kodak Phils. donated the X-ray film. Her brother-in-law, Rene Q. delos Reyes, national sales manager of Glaxo-Smith Kline, responded with donations of oral hygiene supplies. Averia also passed on the plea for help to another colleague, Hermie Limbo, business manager for ultrasound, who pitched in with a Logiq XP ultrasound machine.

"I wanted to help within my capacity," says Averia. "With God's intervention, things just fell into place."

Long-term solution

"The donated machines are even more advanced than those being used in some Manila hospitals," notes Miñana, adding that Dr. Ernesto Cahoy, who has been with the Anahawan hospital for 20 years, is presently training people to use the brand new units.

How a phone call from a stranger, an X-ray machine and the tragedy in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, led Milette Averia to her childhood dream of giving service to a hospital



A generator was donated next, part of Miñana's response to his father's appeal for them to offer a long-term solution to the problems of Guinsaugon by supporting its health care system.

The donated equipment were turned over after Holy Week in April, with Averia, the Miñana couple and Manny's mother, Rosario attending the turnover rites in Anahawan. She was overwhelmed by the warm reception she got, says Averia. "They made me feel like a hero," she says. "They were very gracious, they even had streamers with my name on it, and hosted a dinner for us."

Asked to deliver a speech, Averia recalls saying, "I have never been to Leyte before because there was no reason for me to be here. Manny and Denise have long existed but I never knew them, but God has brought us together."

For Averia, a nursing graduate who never got to practice her profession, the donation to the Anahawan hospital meant a lot. At last, she had rendered service to a medical facility, if only vicariously.

Averia had always wanted to be part of the Air Force as a flight nurse, but fate led her to several pharmaceutical companies where she sold vaccines, and later to GE, where she started as an account executive in 1994. One of eight siblings, she is "married to GE," laughs Averia, 51, about her civil status. On weekdays, she is a corporate woman, she says, but weekends find her "decorating and beautifying" her new house, or spoiling her nieces and nephews, "the biggest stimulants in my life."

A balanced life

She adds: "I try to balance my life. I make sure that on weekends, I do things for myself to keep my sanity."

The Anahawan donation has taught her a lot, says Averia. "I have learned that there are no real barriers when responding to cries for help. The willingness to help is an instinct that not only comes from the mind but also from the heart. I'm very thankful and proud to be employed by a company that has the social sensitivity to respond to such needs."

Weldon and Miñana agree wholeheartedly. "This is a story about angels, about wanting to make your life useful," notes Weldon.

Adds Miñana: "It felt so good to be in the midst of tragedy and to see the best of people. You think you have shared something, but you are actually the recipient of grace. In wanting to go beyond yourself, you become a vessel of grace. You then realize that in the midst of all this tragedy, life is still good."



"Vessel of grace": Averia (left) with Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Larias and Anahawan Mayor Jose Miñana at the turnover ceremonies

from sculpting clay to gum paste icing, this Fine Arts graduate has found that life can be a

Karla Magbanua bakes in a lot of humor into her customized art pieces that look too good to be eaten

IMAGINE a cake decorated with a pair of sugar eyeballs, or fat little pink sugar piglets, or a frosted jeep climbing a mountain. Then imagine sinking your teeth into one of these confectionary creations and being delightfully surprised to savor the sinful richness of dark, moist chocolate underneath the beautiful frosting.

Karla Magbanua of Claycakes began offering these delights to clients when she first began baking custom made cakes in 2001.

Today, Magbanua has orders far ahead as year 2007, averages four cake orders every week, has a website (www.claycakes.com) and regularly joins bridal fairs. Claycakes has become a byword for the originality, whimsical quality and humor of Magbanua's cake designs, which she conceptualizes for each client.

Signature figures

"I don't have a catalogue," she reveals. She sits down with every client and in minutes, sketches a design based on their wishes, personalities, or themes. She does have a kind of signature, the round-faced miniature figures she creates to represent the bride and groom on her wedding cakes which constitute the majority of her orders.

Magbanua has carved out a niche for herself with what she calls her claycakes, so called because of the versatility of shapes and designs that she creates out of fondant and gum paste. The UP Fine Arts graduate also used to sculpt with clay.

The business spun off from Magbanua's idea of making her own cake for her son Enzo's first birthday in 2001. She recalls, "I was trying to find a (cake decorating) course but I couldn't find anyone who could teach what I wanted to learn. I ended up experimenting."

Despite the colors ending up lighter than she would want them, Karla's first under-the-sea-theme birthday cake was a smash hit among the 50 guests who thought the cake was a bakeshop product. Bubbles, seahorses, fish, lobsters, sea weed and starfish cascaded down the side of the cake. Encouraged, Magbanua continued to experiment in her mother-in-law's kitchen, coming up with little

chiffon cakes. One of her earliest orders was for a wedding cake for her husband Tristan's cousin. After that, orders started trickling in.

For an optometrist couple who wanted their cake to show their profession, Magbanua fashioned her now famous eyeball design, a theme she has developed into her signature pingpong ball-headed bride-and-groom figures. For a movie-loving couple, she decorated the cake with figures from the movies "The Princess Bride," "Forrest Gump" and "Monsters, Inc.," while showing the couple seated on a tub of movie house popcorn. The giveaways were cakes as tubs of popcorn.

Unique designs

Each cake is individual and client-specific, Magbanua explains, "I normally assess the needs of my clients and base the design on their givens. We consider the venue, if there's a stylist or florist, little considerations like that. Some couples go traditional and very classic with the whole wedding but with the cake, they go all out."

Magbanua says the couples who go for her unique designs are very individualistic. "They're very serious about style and they're not afraid to show it in their cake." The couples' mothers tend to be taken aback by the funkiness of the designs, but always Magbanua's claycakes manage to become conversation pieces. She once made a cake with a sandcastle design for a couple who wanted a very informal, laid back wedding on the beach.

Prices usually begin at P10,000.

Magbanua conducts research for some designs. She had to look at photos of the CJR7 Renegade jeep and consult male friends after a travel-loving German-Filipino couple asked for a cake showing them on the road in their beloved jeep. She fashioned the jeep on the cake and showed it maneuvering up a mountain side.

Popular pig

The most popular of Magbanua's creations is a pink sugar pig which she created as giveaways for the wedding of a couple who owned a piggery in Batangas. The guests grabbed the pigs before they could be wrapped in doilies for giving away.

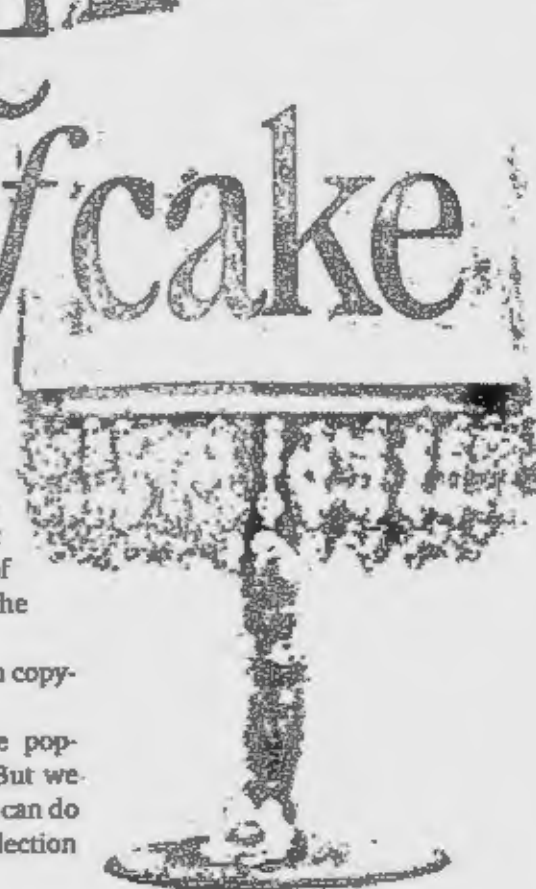
piece of cake

Some might say that her cakes look too good to be eaten, but Magbanua encourages guests to eat her cakes which are usually chocolate cake or lemon crumb. She says guests are surprised at the luscious taste and texture of the cakes. The taste is part of the claycakes signature, she adds.

With the claycakes' success, can copycat cakes be far behind?

Magbanua admits, "Some are popping up. It's actually flattering. But we try to vary (our designs). Anyone can do the miniatures but an honest reflection in your funkiest, funniest, or cheesiest is the idea behind it." She is confident that her ability to interpret her clients' unique ideas into the wildly original, ingenious designs of her cakes will keep Claycakes around for a long time.

Certainly, the couples who revel in the humor and delight of Magbanua's claycakes may be making a sweet start to their married life.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sweet start. Magbanua shows off her personalized wedding cakes



AUGUST OF LA CRUZ

Art

Time beyond lives, abstract paintings by Ruel Caza until July 5 at The Drawing Room, G/F Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City.

A Bowtie For John Lyle, paintings where the artist plays a bit of a comical homage to his musician father by Lyle Buencamino at Magnet Gallery ABS, The Loop, ABS-CBN Compound, QC, tel. 410-0995, opens on July 4.

Imaje Nation / Imagined Nation, a collection of multimedia pieces by Don Maralit Sakubayba composed of wall-bound works, video pieces and puppets about how our country came to be a nation, until July 9 at the CCP Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo.

ONE, first solo exhibit of Teresita C. Mapa that chronicles the experiences of every overseas Filipino worker's unfolding journey at the Gallery Genesis, 4/L, SM Megamall A until July 12. For details, call 633-8137.

Long Goodbye, a group show curated by Roberto Chabot that includes the works of Poldong Anandig, Lena Cobangbang, Al Cruz, Bernol de la Cruz, Ranelle Dial, Nilo Ilarde, Paolo Martinez, Jet Melencio, Jonathan Olazo, Jayson Oliveria, Gary Ros Pastura, Jucar Raquapo, Italo Z. Tajo, Alvin Villanuel, MM Yu at Magnet Gallery Katipunan, Agor Bldg. 335 Katipunan Ave, QC, tel. 9293191, until July 8.

Cinema

UP Film Institute's schedule of screenings: "Coach Carter," July 3, 5 p.m.; "Who's Your Daddy," July 10, 5 p.m.; "Wild Orchid (Two Shades of Blue)," July 17, 5 p.m.; "She's the Man," July 20, 5 p.m.; "V for Vendetta," July 6, 5 p.m.; "Wild Side," July 13, 5 p.m.; "Happy Together," July 3, 7:30 p.m.; "Formula 17," July 5, 5 p.m.; "Wild Side," July 13, 7 p.m. Annual Award-Winners Showcase: "Brokeback Mountain," July 11, 5 p.m.; "The 40 Year Old Virgin," July 12, 5 p.m.; "Merry Christmas," July 13, 5 p.m.; "Wallace and Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," July 19, 5 p.m.; "Memoirs of a Geisha," July 25, 5 p.m.; "Munich," July 27, 5 p.m. Added Features: "X-Men 3," July 18, 5 p.m.; "Over the Hedge," July 24, 5 p.m. For queries, call cinema hotline 926-3640, 926-2722 (telex).

Onstage

Dulaang UP opens its 31st season with *Shadows of the Reef*, written and directed by Anton Juan. The play is about the life of a young muro-ami diver and his mother who wants to be crucified for sending her own son to death. It will run from July 12 to 30 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. For inquiries, call 926-1349.

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

Desperately seeking closure

Dear Joe,

Just call me Jaime, in my mid-30s, working at a bank, married with two kids; you know, just your ordinary dude. Thirteen years back, I was your certified bum. I did nothing but go out and spend my parents' money on wine and women. Then I met someone who is now my wife. We got married 12 years ago just because she got pregnant. I strongly felt that it was time to stop running away from my responsibilities and face my problems squarely. A few months after we got married and a few days after she gave birth to our first child, I was able to land a job at a bank.

Everything was domestically okay for me, until two years after my marriage, I met Dabs, a manager of an appliance store near the bank where I worked. She was pretty, had beautiful long legs, and a mysterious aura. My curiosity overcame my caution, and I started a conversation with her. It turned out that she was separated from her husband and taking care of one kid. We became very good friends.

Word got around and reached my wife, who suspected that I was having an affair. Back then I wasn't. Dabs was simply a friend whom I considered to be very close to me. Still, my wife went to Dabs' workplace, confronted her, and demanded that she stop seeing me. But our conscience back then was clear; we were not doing anything wrong. Despite my wife's objections, I continued to see her, until I realized that I was falling in love with her.

Suffice to say that we had an affair. I reached a decision back then to leave my family, despite my wife giving birth to our second child. All I wanted was to be with Dabs. She became my world, my life. I loved her; she loved me back. I found complete acceptance from someone whom I truly loved.

Everything was set: we were to move to Manila and start our lives over. Until my father meddled, he being a very influential person in our place. In short, Dabs was terminated from work and I was put in the care of a priest until he could knock some sense into my head. We were forcibly separated from each other.

But secretly we kept in touch. I would go on secret trips to Manila just to spend time with her. Whenever she would come home to our town to see her kid, I would find ways to see her clandestinely. It was the ultimate thrill of my life back then.

Our hide-and-seek relationship went on for seven years. I was hesitant to leave my family for fear that I wouldn't see my kids anymore. I kept telling everyone that I was going on the straight and narrow path to faithfulness and monogamy. I wanted Dabs

I want to hug her and sincerely apologize for forcing her to kill an innocent child growing inside her

and my kids. By continuing with this setup, I was having the best of both worlds. I still loved her, truly loved her. Until last year.

Dabs became insistent that we continue our plan to move in together. By now I was already having second thoughts about it. I've started to learn to love my wife. I've started to enjoy family life. You know, a quiet family life. But then, in October of last year, Dabs confronted me with something that felt like the whole world collapsed on me: she was pregnant. She asked me about my reaction and my plans, and I told her I had none.

During that time, I was having problems of my own at work. The situation of Dabs getting pregnant was farthest from my priorities. I asked her what she felt about the situation, and she answered that she has a career to take care of. Simply put, she didn't want the kid. I told her to do what she wanted to do, and she said that she wanted to get an abortion. In another classic case of me running away from responsibility, I agreed. She asked that I accompany her, and I told her that I was too busy with work. She completely went ballistic and was crying and angry at the same time. Just to stop her from making a scene, I told her that I take full responsibility for her actions. After her abortion, she called me several times, but I was completely cold to her. I simply wanted out of this relationship, Joe. It has been nine years of lies, of adultery and sin. I have had enough.

It's been more than five months since I last saw or heard anything about Dabs. I feel guilty for what I've done to her. For not ending the relationship before she got pregnant. For not telling her that the

Pinoy Noal

by Jess Abrera



Sipit

Music

Magnet Café Performances: July 3—Day One, Cybelle's Roba, Lysosome, Neruda; July 4—Up Dharma Down; July 5—Jazz Night: Johnny Alegre Affinity and Dirty Kitchen; July 6—Dongabay; July 7—Game Pool, Formula Juan, Sideshow, The Spoons, Mushroom 5 and Cutchie Inna Balmayard; July 8—CD Launch-Mayonnaise, San Flower Day Camp and Marcus. (Magnet Café, 335 Katipunan Ave, Loyola Heights, QC, Tel. 929-3191).

The MCO Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart in a concert featuring pianist Arles Caces on July 7, 7:30 p.m. at Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1's Francisco Santiago Hall in Makati City. Concert repertoire will include Mozart's "Rondo in D Major, K. 485," "Fantasy in D Minor, K. 385," "Sonata in D Major, K. 284," "Diana's," and Liszt's "Grandes Etudes de Paganini." For ticket inquiries, call the MCO Secretaries at 878-3459.

Atbp

Join guide Ivan ManDy as he horses around and takes visitors to discover Old Manila's culinary and historical delights in *The BIG Binondo Food Walk* on July 8 and 22. Meet inside the Binondo Church at 1 p.m. Also join *Power, Palace and a Shot of Beer: A San Miguel District Walk* on July 15. For details, log on to www.oldmanilawalks.com or text 0917-3291622.

Sining Sambaydwa and Teatro Frisco will hold a joint *Saturday Drama Workshop: Acting Onstage and On Camera* for children, teens and adults to be held at the Ninoy Aquino Park and Wildlife Nature Center, Diliman, QC. The workshop will begin on July 22 and will continue every Saturday thereafter until Sept. 30 with morning and afternoon sessions. Registration at the Ninoy Aquino Park will be on July 8 and 15, 1 to 5 p.m. Weekday registration will be from July 3-14 at 7-A Macario Rivera St., Barangay Mariblo, SFDMM, QC. For details, call 376-2267.

X-manila

All in the Timing, a series of one-act comedies to be performed by award-winning UK theater group Peepolyous at Liceo de Cagayan's Rodelma Hall in Cagayan de Oro on July 3 and 4. For tickets, call tel. (088) 858-4093 local 107.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Concepts Sudoku

by Dave Green

8		1			9			3
					7			
		3			7		5	
5	2							
			6	2				
						8	6	
9	7				8			
			5					
4			3		1		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	2	6	5	9	1	3	8
6	8	1	7	3	4	2	5	9
5	9	3	1	8	2	4	7	6
7	1	6	5	2	3	9	8	4
9	3	8	4	6	1	5	2	7
2	4	5	9	7	8	3	6	1
1	2	7	8	9	5	6	4	3
3	6	4	2	1	7	8	9	5
8	5	9	3	4	6	7	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

reason I kept on seeing her and being with her was to satisfy her, not because I still love her. Joe, I wanted to apologize to her, to say that I was a complete jerk, but I do not know where she is. She resigned from her job and nobody could not say where she went.

I want to hug her and sincerely apologize for what I've done to her. For forcing her to kill an innocent child growing inside her. It came to a point where the pressure of guilt bothered me so much that I got a gun and pointed it to my head, but when I pulled the trigger, the gun didn't go off.

Joe, could you please let Dabs know that I am truly sorry for what I've done to her? Could you please ask her to get in touch with me so that I could apologize to her? We both listen to your program often, and she would always turn silent whenever the letter sender's topic would include a love triangle.

What do I have to do, Joe, to get this guilt out of my system? My work is suffering. My family has suffered enough from my indiscretions. I am suffering from my stupidity and collusion. Please help me out, Joe. I am seeking closure on this issue. Redemption, maybe. But forgiveness from Dabs, definitely.

Jaime

Dear Jaime,

I know for a fact that one of man's greatest weakness is his incessant craving to satisfy his selfish desires. You married your wife because she was pregnant and not because you really loved her then. You took the vow of marriage for the wrong reason.

Then, the biggest test came. Someone you thought you loved more than your family came and turned your world around. You became obsessed with the thought of moving in with Dabs in the hope of starting a new life with her.

God wanted you to keep your family so he made a way for you to stay. But your will to do what you wanted

prevailed. You got Dabs pregnant only to find out that a life with her is not what you wanted after all. But the damage has been done and it was aggravated by the fact that you even consented to having your baby aborted. You ran away and now, you are being haunted by the guilt of your own dark past.

Jaime, no matter how difficult life may seem to be, it is still what we make it. All of these happened because you wanted and allowed them to happen. But I know that your feeling of guilt is a sign that you are a moral and responsible person. Many of us continue to struggle with guilt and the inability to forgive ourselves. But, if we cannot forgive ourselves, we simply cannot go on.

I hope Dabs is listening now. She probably has left everything behind but if she is still carrying the burden of hatred for you, then I hope this letter would make her realize how sorry you truly are for hurting her and making her life miserable. Let us always remember that hatred will just consume us until there is no more space for mercy. What's done is done but the power of forgiveness can change our lives forever.

Jaime, you cannot control the past nor can you really control the future. What you can control 100 percent is this moment. Learn to forgive yourself. Redemption will come when God sees the pureness of your heart and the sincerity of your intentions. Continue to love your family and be faithful to your wife. Live your life as a sacrifice to prove to everyone that you really want to change to become a better son to your parents, a better father to your children and a better husband to your wife.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 a.m. with replays at 7 p.m. on Wave 89.1 FM. Get your daily love quotes from Joe D' Mango via SMS by texting ON DEARJOE to 2968. Visit the official Lovenotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

People, Events & Products

A toast to an advertising giant

THE DDB GROUP OF COMPANIES (DDB Philippines and its affiliate company Ad Verbum PR Inc, Rapp Collins, DM9 JaymeSyfu,) led by its chair Lito de Joya and group president and CEO Gil G. Chua, were joined by leaders from the Philippines' most iconic companies and other A-list clients, media friends and advertising colleagues at the posh Tower Club in Makati last June 7. Guests enjoyed an evening of cocktails and great music to honor the late Ken Kaess, former president and chief executive officer of DDB Worldwide.

In town for the occasion was John Zeigler, DDB Asia Pacific president and chief executive officer. Zeigler is responsible for DDB's people, brands and business performance in 14 countries and close to

a 1000 staff. He served as former chair of Tribal DDB Worldwide, the world's leading interactive advertising agency network where he oversaw the company's growth to 25 offices in 19 countries. Accompanying Zeigler was Duy Quang, chief financial officer of DDB Asia Pacific.

Earlier in the day, Messrs. Zeigler and Duy Quang, led the DDB Group of Companies' management and staff, in planting 400 trees and to support the call to protect the La Mesa watershed. While the business of creative, effective, and relevant communications was his job during his 10 year tenure, Kaess is remembered by his colleagues for his people-focused spirit and his call to "Unleash Your Potential" to DDB's worldwide personnel at the

Asia Pacific Conference in Shanghai last year in September.

DDB Philippines, through its DDB Cares initiative, has been involved in various philanthropic activities, including Energy Conservation, Children's Lab, the Philippine Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, and Radio Veritas.

DDB has been twice named The Gunn Report's Most Awarded Agency Network, Adweek's Global Agency and Ad Age's Global Network of the Year. DDB is a four-time winner of the Clio Agency Network of the Year, and has won more awards than any other network in the history of the Cannes International Advertising Festival. Global Interactive subsidiary Tribal DDB was named Adweek's Interactive Agency of the Year for 2005.



DDB's prime movers: DDB Philippines chair Lito de Joya, DDB Asia Pacific chair John Zeigler, vice chair Susan Dimacali, group president and CEO Gil Chua, CFO Roger Torres, DDB managing director Manny Gutierrez raise a toast to guests.



ABC 5 managing director for news and entertainment Bobby Barreiro and PLDT SVP-retail business group Butch Jimenez with DDB Phil's Gil Chua, Lito de Joya and Roy Santiago.



PEPSI vice president Maricel Narciso (2nd from left) with DDB's Pepsi Team Maryjo Dino, Vina Gayoso and DDB Asia Pacific president and CEO John Zeigler.



INQUIRER advertising VP Papito Olarte, PLDT AVP for marketing services Raul Alvarez, DDB CFO Roger Torres and OMD executive vice president Ador Perez.



MCDONALD'S marketing VP Margot Torres with Smart group head manager for sales, distribution and marketing Ricky Isla.



DDB's Nonon del Carmen, DM9's Mari Aznar and DDB Asia Pacific chief finance officer Duy Quang.



OMD chair Antonio Samson, GV broadcast director Ooy Vea, DDB group president and CEO Gil Chua, PLDT/Smart president and CEO Napoleon 'Polly' Nazareno and Federal Phoenix Assurance president Ramon Dimacali.



DDB's HR manager Julie de Joya, DDB AdVerbum PR head Bonjin Bolinao and Creative Rapp Collins creative wiz Roger Pa.

Ceriola wins 5th SM Bowling Cup

Christian Albert Ceriola recently drove home a brand new Nissan Sentra when he won the recently concluded 5th SM Bowling Cup Grand Finals at his home Bowling Center at the SM Megamall.

Jeremy Chui of SM City North Edsa and Leticia Pineda of SM City Fairview placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. Chui received a P50,000 cash prize, while Pineda took home P25,000.

The SM Bowling Cup, an inter-center competition for male and female bowlers in Metro Manila and Cebu, is to date the most prestigious and grandest bowling tournament in the country, giving away great prizes and incentives for outstanding bowlers.

Apart from the tournament champions, Perfect Game Winners Sammy Say Sy, Jake Santos, Alex Ngoi Jr, Mar Serac and Jong Enriquez were also awarded P100,000 in cash.

What made the tournament even more fun was the Grand Raffle Draw wherein all participants had the chance to win exciting prizes. Lucky bowler Henry Murao won the Grand Prize, a brand new Nissan Sentra. Four other lucky winners - Johnson Cortez, Francisco Angelo Vil-

lador, Santos Bautista, and JC Cabacungan - were awarded round trip tickets for two to Hongkong Disneyland.

Other participants brought home television sets: Milian Caba with a Sony Home Theater System; Danny Tuazon and Rogelio Balanay, each with a Sharp Flat 29"; Stanley Crislarano and Rose Avena, each with a Polyttron Flat 29" TV; and Kim Ian Chi with a Promac 21" TV.

Three Lexmark 735 Color Jet-Printers, five DVD players, and double bowling bags were also raffled during the draw.

The 5th SM Bowling Cup is a joint project of the SM Leisure Center, Nissan, Mercantile Insurance Company of the Philippines, Philippine Airlines, Pepsi, Nature's Spring, San Miguel, Red Bull, Golden Duck Johnson Diversy, Sustagan Premium, Akari, Boss Pro Shop, Shangri-La Finest Chinese Cuisine, Monde Nissin, and Array Technology. Media partners include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Love Radio and Yes FM. It is one of the many exciting events of the SM Bowling Centers in SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview and SM City Cebu.



The 5th SM Bowling Cup top three winners: grand champion Christian Albert Ceriola from SM Megamall, 1st runner up Jeremy Chui from SM City North Edsa and 2nd runner up Leticia Pineda from SM City Fairview.

A night of salsa at One Legazpi Park

IT WAS A GRAND EVENING FILLED WITH music and dancing as Ayala Land Premier hosted an exclusive salsa party to welcome residents of the newly completed One Legazpi Park.

A sumptuous buffet prepared by Café Havana awaited guests, who enjoyed delicious Cuban hors d'oeuvres like plantains and salsa, chicken churrasco, and gambas fritas. Cocktail punch flowed all through the evening as the residents watched a performance by seasoned salsa dancers who enjoined guests to groove to the Latin beats performed by the night's entertaining band.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a magnificent sculpture by Filipino artist Eduardo Castrillo, a National Heritage and Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardee. Nominated for the prestigious National Artist title, Castrillo's 40-year career is marked by world-renowned monuments and various artistic expressions that have made him a phenomenon in the Philippine art scene. For Ayala Land Premier, Castrillo has created "Focal Form", a grand work of art which now dominates the front driveway of One Legazpi Park and serves to once again underscore the understated elegance of one of Manila's most coveted addresses.

The salsa party itself is also a reflection of Ayala Land Premier's unceasing attention to detail in giving its residents a taste of the good life. Says Angela De Villa-Lacson, head of Ayala Land Premier, "This event really is just to celebrate and welcome all of our guests to their new home at One Legazpi Park. Here, they will enjoy exclusivity, security, privacy and comfort - all the important elements that Ayala Land Premier is committed to."

One Legazpi Park is one of Ayala Land Premier's top residential building developments, offering the comfort and style of urban living right in the heart of cosmopolitan Makati. Residents of this elegant address enjoy the convenience of being minutes away from the bustling business district as well as easy access to Greenbelt and Glorietta, two of Manila's first-class shopping and recreational centers. One Legazpi Park also boasts of top-class amenities that will make city living a most comfortable and enjoyable experience.

Launched in 2002, One Legazpi Park was completed earlier than promised, with Ayala Land Premier opening the doors of this 45-storey residential building to new residents last December 2005. This achievement tops the many accolades the multi-awarded condominium has already garnered, which included

the award for being the Safest and Best Project in 2003, given by the local government of Makati City. One Legazpi Park was also given the 5 Million Safe Man Hours award by its general contractor EBI Corporation.

Proof that One Legazpi Park is one of Makati's most wanted addresses is the fact that all units were sold during the construction period - a feat in the highly competitive world of real estate. While other condominiums stand complete yet without owners, One Legazpi Park now has a thriving community enjoying all the benefits of living in this exclusive development - a testament to the solid and undisputed history of integrity and reliability, only from Ayala Land Premier.

Ayala Land Premier (ALP) is the new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land providing exclusivity, security, ultimate comfort, and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, ALP ensures exclusivity and value over time.

For further information about Ayala Land Premier projects, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com, or e-mail ayala-ask@ayalalandpremier.com.

1st Globe Bizfair set

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE VALUABLE SUPPORT TO BUDDING AND medium-scale enterprises all over the country, Globe Telecom holds its first Bizfair on June 29 to July 2, at the Megatrade Hall 3, 5th Level, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

A special four-day event touted as a "one-stop shop" for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Bizfair '06 brings together products, technology, and product and innovation talks designed to boost one's business. Participants get to enjoy event-exclusive promotional offers on all its product offerings - Globe Handyphone plans (including one-day activation of postpaid applications with complete requirements), Globelines and Globe Broadband.

Guests can take advantage of free access to Globe mobile services, Broadband and WiFi during the event. Bizfair '06 also equips Filipino SMEs with business tools and applications and provides them with innovative business ideas with its product and innovation talks and interesting product showcases. Aside from Globe Telecom, the event will be participated in by ICT vendors and business support establishments, like mobile handset manufacturers, hardware and software suppliers, system integrators, banks, ICT and business schools and publications. Attendees can also watch out for 3G phones that will be raffled off daily.

Globe Bizfair '06 will have a second leg at the SM City Cebu Trade Hall 3 on July 13 to 16. Please e-mail inquiries to customercare@in-nove.com.ph.



UNILAB, CDO TO FIGHT MALNUTRITION TOGETHER

Raymund Santiago (second from left), corporate affairs officer of Unilever Laboratories Inc shakes hands with Dindo Danao, executive director of Odyssey Foundation Inc after the formal launch of their partnership to save children out of malnutrition and provide medicines to poor people. Witnesses to the simple ceremony

were Lial Dixon of Unilever's consumer health division and Lyann Erguliza, social worker of Odyssey Foundation. Odyssey is the corporate social responsibility arm of CDO-Food-sphere Inc. The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) claims that some 3.7 million Filipino children aged 1 to 5 are undernourished.